

DRUGS and DRIVING

DON'T MIX

To reduce the incidence of drug driving and the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads, new drug driving laws will commence on 1 February 2016.

These laws will provide Northern Territory Police the power to conduct random testing on any driver and require them to provide a saliva sample for drug driving testing.

Taking drugs before driving puts you at risk of injuring or killing yourself, your friends or other innocent people.

Safe driving requires good judgement and sharp concentration. You also need to react quickly to changing situations on the road.

Drugs can significantly affect your:

- driving skills
- alertness
- coordination
- vision
- reaction time.

Mixing drugs with other drugs or with alcohol can seriously affect your health and your ability to drive safely.

Medicines and over-the-counter drugs

Many prescription and some over the counter medicines can affect your ability to drive and could make you unfit to drive. They can affect your concentration, mood, coordination and reactions as a driver.

Ask your doctor or read the label on your medication to check it does not contain alcohol (also known as ethanol), or contain a warning about possible effects on driving ability.

Drug testing

Random roadside saliva testing will identify the recent use and presence of the following prohibited drugs:

- Delta 9 THC
 - the active ingredient in Cannabis
- Methylamphetamines
 - also known as Speed or Ice
- MDMA
 - the active ingredient in ecstasy.

Saliva tests will only be able to detect the active ingredients of these drugs. Even though methamphetamine is manufactured from substances such as pseudoephedrine (found in cold and flu tablets), those substances will not be detected by the saliva tests.

Where you test positive on the first saliva test, Police can require you to submit to a second saliva test at the roadside to confirm the presence of drugs.

Blood testing will remain as an alternative where a second saliva test cannot be carried out.

For assistance with Alcohol and Other Drug health related issues, please contact Amity Territory Wide
1800 684 372