

Alcohol Interlock Program in South Australia

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Government of South Australia

Department for Transport,
Energy and Infrastructure

Drink Driving in South Australia

- Drink Driving remains a significant factor in fatalities and serious injuries on SA roads
- Over 30% of drivers and riders killed in road crashes have a BAC greater than 0.05
- Majority are more than 3 times over legal limit



Drink Driving in South Australia

- Government initiatives to deter drink driving include
 - full-time mobile random breath testing
 - increasing number of breath tests performed
 - hospital admissions
 - immediate loss of licence for high level offences
 - alcohol interlock scheme



Alcohol Ignition Interlock Trial

- 1998 alcohol interlock trial in SA Riverland
- 6 month trial
- 24 volunteers
- Identify administrative & technical issues
- Findings
 - operation of scheme
 - pros and cons of implementation



Voluntary Alcohol Interlock Scheme (VIS)

- SA Alcohol Interlock Scheme introduced 2001
- First scheme in Australia
- Voluntary program
- Eligible
 - driving offence and disqualified 6 months or more
 - served at least half of their disqualification
- Interlock twice remaining disqualification period



Voluntary Alcohol Interlock Scheme (VIS)

- Need to apply to court
- Alcohol interlock conditions included:
 - device in “nominated vehicle”
 - only drive “nominated vehicle”
 - counselling sessions as required
 - regular servicing appointments
 - display “P” plates
- Drivers liable for all costs - subsidies if low income
- Some drivers prohibited from scheme



Key Issues

- First program in Australia/ Southern Hemisphere
- Starting from scratch
 - create program
 - establishing service delivery
- Mandatory, remote areas



Key Challenges

- Raising awareness - media attention
- Technical issues
- No national system for interstate movements
- Low participant numbers – few road safety benefits
- Time taken to change system



Key Achievements

- Incentive to get licence back early
- Proving it works
 - no ministerials
 - no crashes
- Foundation for mandatory scheme



Future Developments

- Mandatory alcohol interlock scheme introduced in SA (1 May 2009)
- Voluntary scheme phased out over 5 years
- Allow participants to move interstate



Mandatory Alcohol Interlock Scheme (MIS)

- **“Serious drink driving offence”** from 1 May 2009
- Must serve full disqualification period
- Must have an alcohol interlock device fitted to vehicle
- Applies for same period as disqualification period
- Period extended breach conditions in final 3 months
- Successfully complete period before unconditional licence is issued



Mandatory Alcohol Interlock Scheme (MIS)

- “Serious drink driving offence”
 - second or subsequent BAC offence 0.08+ (category 2 offence)
 - any BAC offence 0.15+ (category 3 offence)
 - DUI (alcohol) offence
 - refuse provide breath / blood (alcohol) offence



Mandatory Alcohol Interlock Scheme (MIS)

- Drivers responsible for all costs
 - installation
 - service requirements
- Concession scheme for eligible card holders
- Breach alcohol interlock conditions max \$2,500 fine
- First participant May 2010
(after min 12 month disqualification period)





Further information.

www.dtei.sa.gov.au/roadsafety



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