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Cairns Linked Inc.
MULTICULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

centacare
MAKING A DIFFERENCE **FNQ**

Cairns Safer Roads

Centacare FNQ & Cairns Linked Inc. Initiative



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Welcome Message

Safer Cairns Roads Education Program is a community education initiative aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge of safe road use across a diverse range of road users. This program has been designed to address road safety issues at a grassroots level, ensuring that the community is actively involved in promoting and applying safe behaviors.

The program employs a strategic approach, utilizing existing networks and services to reach a wide range of road users, including young local and international students, new migrants to the Cairns area, and older drivers. Through these efforts, the program aims to create a safer road environment for everyone.

A special focus of the program is to support linguistically diverse individuals, helping them understand how to safely share the road. This ensures that all community members, regardless of cultural or language background, can benefit from the safety education and take practical steps to improve their road safety knowledge.

The program is a collaborative effort, with support from **Centacare, Cairns Linked Inc., KonThai Driving School** and is proudly supported by the **Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads**. These key stakeholders are working together to provide educational resources, community engagement activities, and support for vulnerable road users. Their combined efforts help ensure that the program is comprehensive, accessible, and impactful for all involved.



“






“I’m passionate about helping our community stay safe on the roads by sharing knowledge, building confidence, and supporting every learner, no matter their background”

”

Arisa Binzain

PROJECT CONSULTANT

Pre-drive Vocabulary

English	Swahili	Kinyarnwanda	Arakanese	Nepali
 Steering wheel Used to control the direction of the car.	Usukani	Agashinga k'igurisha	အထွေထွေ ယာဉ်အာပေး	स्टीयरिंग व्हील
 Horn Makes a warning sound for safety.	Honí	Ikombe	ကြိုးပိတ်စနစ်	हर्न
 Seat Belt A strap worn to keep you safe in case of an accident.	Mkanda wa usalama	Umugozzi w'umutekano	လုံခြုံရေးတန်း	सीट बेल्ट
 Gear Stick or gear selector	Fimbo ya gia	Umugereko wa Gari	गियर लिभर	गियर
 Accelerator (Right hand side) The pedal that makes the car go faster	Kanyagio cha mafuta	Pedali y'iyinjiza ry'umuvuduko	အမြန်ပမာဏ ကိရိယာ	एक्सेलरेटर
Break (Left hand side) The pedal that slows or stops the car.	Breki	Ibarazi	ဘရိတ်စနစ်	ब्रेक पेडल

Pre-drive Vocabulary

English	Swahili	Kinyarwanda	Arakanese	Nepali
 Traffic Light A signal that controls traffic movement.	Taa za trafiki	Amatara yo mu muhanda	ယာဉ်ကြီးမီး	ट्राफिक बत्ती
 Intersection Where two or more roads meet.	Kivuko cha barabara	Ingingo yo mu muhanda	လမ်းလျှောက်သူများဖြတ်ရာ	पैदलयात्री क्रसिंग
 Roundabout A circular intersection where cars go around.	Mkanda wa usalama	Kizunguzungu	လှည့်ပတ်လမ်း	राउन्डअबाउट
 Pedestrian Crossing A marked place for people to cross.	Msalaba wa watembea kwa miguu	MAhantu ho kunyurwamo n'abanyamaguru	လမ်းလျှောက်သူများဖြတ်ရာ	पैदलयात्री क्रसिंग
 Stop Sign A sign that means to stop completely.	Alama ya kusimama	Ikimenyetso cyo guhagarara	ရပ်ရန်	रोक संकेत
 Give Way Let other vehicles go first. (page. 5)	Toa Njia	Reba inzira	သွားခွင့်ပေးရန်	बाटो छोड्नुहोस्

Transferring an Overseas License to a Queensland License

1. Step 1: Check If You Need to Transfer Your License

- If you are visiting Queensland (e.g., on a tourist or temporary visa), you can usually drive with your overseas license if it is current and in English (or with an official translation).
- If you become a Queensland resident, you must transfer your overseas license within 3 months of moving.

2. Step 2: Check If Your Country is Recognised for Direct Transfer

Recognised Countries (subject to change; always check with Queensland Transport)

- New Zealand
- United Kingdom
- Germany
- Canada
- Singapore
- Japan
- And more...

 **Check the full list of recognised countries here:**
www.qld.gov.au/transport/licensing/overseas/transfer

If your country is **not** on the recognised list, you may need to pass a written and/or practical driving test.

3. Step 3: Gather the Required Documents

To transfer your overseas licence, you will need to provide:

- ✓ Your original overseas driver's licence (in English or with a certified translation).
- ✓ Proof of identity (passport, visa, or Australian ID).
- ✓ Proof of Queensland address (utility bill, rental agreement, or bank statement).
- ✓ Medical certificate (if required for health conditions affecting driving).

4. Step 5: Take the Required Tests (If Applicable)

-  Pass a written road rules test (**PrepL**).
-  Take a practical driving test.



"It is strongly recommended that you take lessons with a local driving instructor before attempting the driving test."

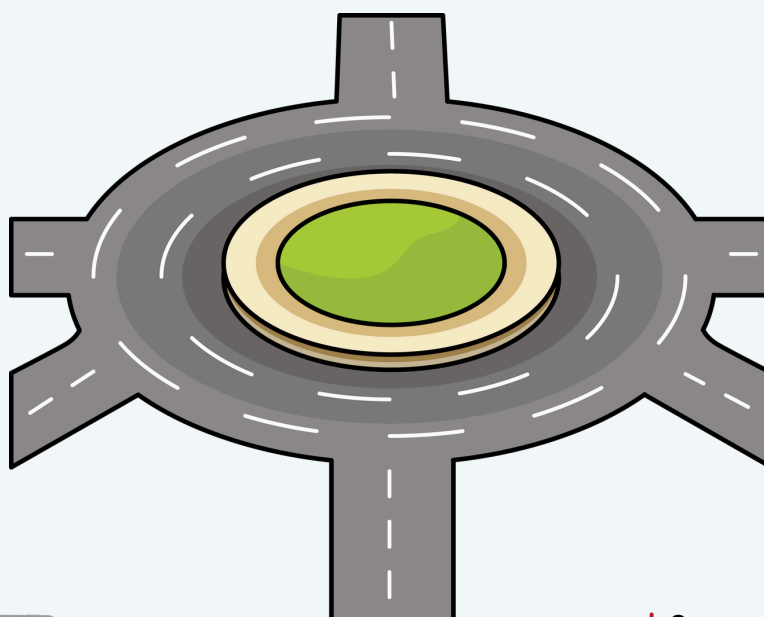


"If you fail the practical driving test, your overseas license will be automatically suspended in Queensland."



"Suspended = You are **NOT** allowed to drive in any situation."

How to Use a Roundabout in Queensland



! Common Roundabout Mistakes to Avoid

- ⚠ Failing to give way to vehicles already in the roundabout.
- ⚠ Not signaling correctly when entering or exiting.
- ⚠ Changing lanes inside the roundabout (only do so if it's safe and legal).
- ⚠ Stopping unnecessarily when the roundabout is clear.

1 ← Turning Left (First Exit)

- Use the left lane.
- **Signal left** as you approach and continue signaling left as you exit.



2 ↑ Going Straight (Second Exit)

- You can use either lane (unless signs say otherwise).
- **Do not** signal when entering, but signal left just before you exit.

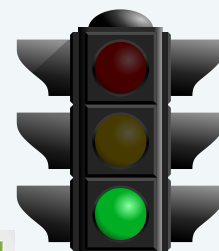
3 ➡ Turning Right or Making a U-Turn (Third or Fourth Exit)

- Use the right lane.
- **Signal right** as you enter the roundabout.
- Change to a **left signal** before exiting.

4 Single-Lane vs. Multi-Lane Roundabouts

- If the roundabout has one lane, just follow the basic rules.
- If the roundabout has multiple lanes, stay in your lane and be aware of other vehicles.

When You Must Give Way at a Green Light



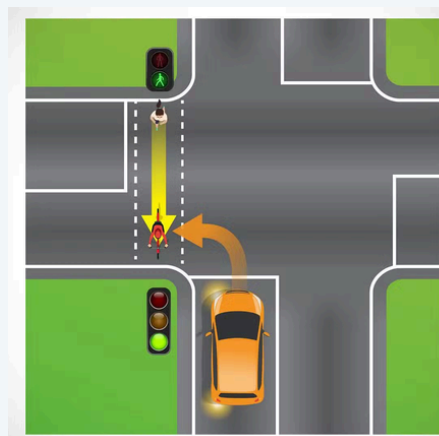
Turning Left at a Green Light

You must give way to:

- Pedestrians crossing the road you are turning into.
- Cyclists using a marked bicycle lane.



Example: If you are turning left at a green light and a pedestrian is crossing, you must wait for them to cross before proceeding.



source: <https://images.app.goo.gl/cmcRagFJPLE>

Turning Right at a Green Light (No Green Arrow)

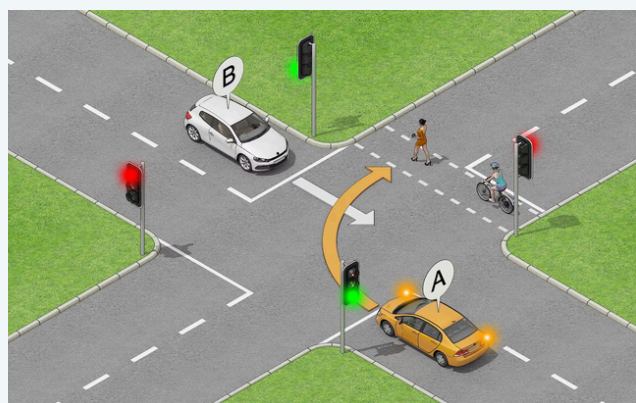
You must give way to:

- Oncoming traffic going straight or turning left.
- Pedestrians crossing the road you are turning into.



Example: If you are turning right at a green light, but a car is coming straight from the opposite direction, you must wait for them to pass first.

Tip: If the intersection has a green right-turn arrow, you have the right of way, and oncoming traffic must stop.



source: <https://zutobi.com/uk/car/traffic-lights>



"This section clarifies that a green light doesn't always mean 'go' and helps learner drivers understand when to give way. "



Merging Lanes in Queensland

Merging lanes can be confusing, especially for drivers from countries that don't have specific merging rules. In Queensland, there are two different types of merging, and each has its own rule.

✓ Merging When There Are **No Lane Lines**

If two lanes combine into one and there are **no lane markings**, the vehicle in front has the right of way.

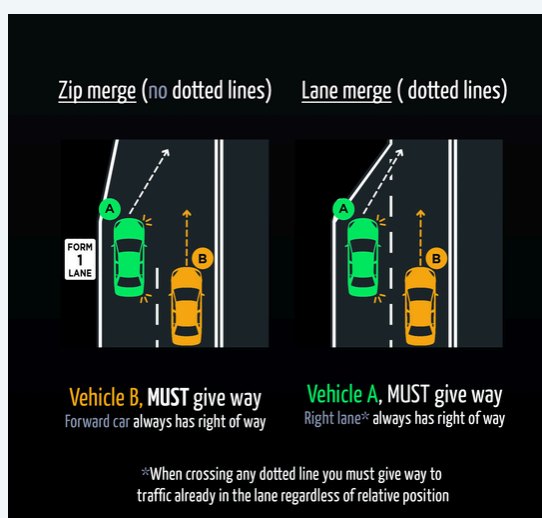
- **Give way to the vehicle ahead of you.**
- The car behind must adjust speed and merge safely.
- Example: When two lanes reduce to one after roadworks, the car ahead in the merging area has the right of way.

✓ Merging When There Are **Lane Lines**

If you are changing lanes in an area where lane markings continue, **you must give way to vehicles already in the lane you are entering.**

Follow normal lane-changing rules:

- Check **mirrors** and **blind spots** 👁️
- **Indicate** for at least **3 seconds** before merging
- Merge smoothly when safe
- Example: On a motorway where two lanes merge into one, the vehicle already in the continuing lane has right of way.



✓ Common Merging Mistakes to Avoid

- ⚠️ Not checking **blind spots** – Other vehicles, motorbikes, or cyclists might be beside you.
- ⚠️ Merging too late – Plan ahead and adjust your speed to merge smoothly.

Source: https://www.reddit.com/r/australia/comments/sod0en/psa_merging_rules_in_australia/?rdt=61221

What Is a Shoulder Check?

A shoulder check (or head check) means quickly turning your head to the left or right to check for vehicles, cyclists, or pedestrians outside your mirror's view (blind spot).

Why is it important?

- Your mirrors don't show everything – A car or motorbike might be in your blind spot.
- It's required for the driving test – Not doing it can cause you to fail.
- Prevents crashes – Especially when merging or turning.



When Should You Do a Shoulder Check?

Before Changing Lanes

- Always check over your shoulder in the direction you are moving.

Before Merging

- Look over your shoulder to check for vehicles in the next lane.

Before Turning Left

- Check your left blind spot for cyclists or pedestrians.

Before Pulling Over or Leaving a Parking Spot

- Look over your shoulder to make sure no vehicles or cyclists are approaching.

Before Exiting a Roundabout

- If changing lanes while exiting, check your blind spot to avoid cutting off another driver.



"Chin over shoulder"
Look quickly but carefully



Slip Lanes & Left-Turn Priority

Many overseas drivers get confused when approaching split lanes at intersections, especially in left-turn lanes. In Queensland, there are situations where left-turning vehicles do not need to give way—but this depends on road signs and markings.

✓ What Is a Slip Lane?

A slip lane is when a single lane divides into two separate lanes—usually one for left-turning traffic and one for vehicles going straight or turning right.


Why is this confusing for overseas drivers?

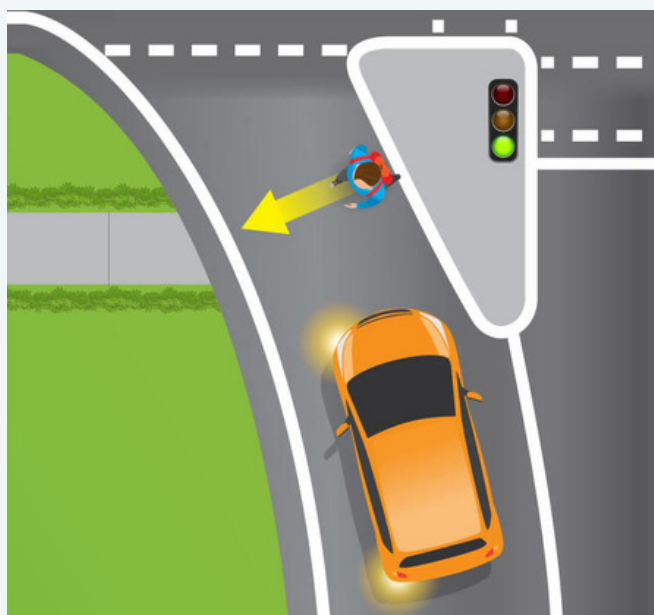
- Some countries require all left turns to give way, but in Queensland, this depends on road signs.
- Some countries allow "free-flow" left turns without stopping.

✓ Give Way When There's a 'Give Way' or Stop Sign

If there is a 'Give Way' sign at the left-turn lane, you must give way to:

- Pedestrians crossing the road.
- Vehicles coming from the right.

 Example: A T-intersection where a left-turning vehicle has a give way sign before merging



source: <https://au.news.yahoo.com/road-rule-quiz-slip-lane-question-right-of-way-confuses-motorists-021736320.html>

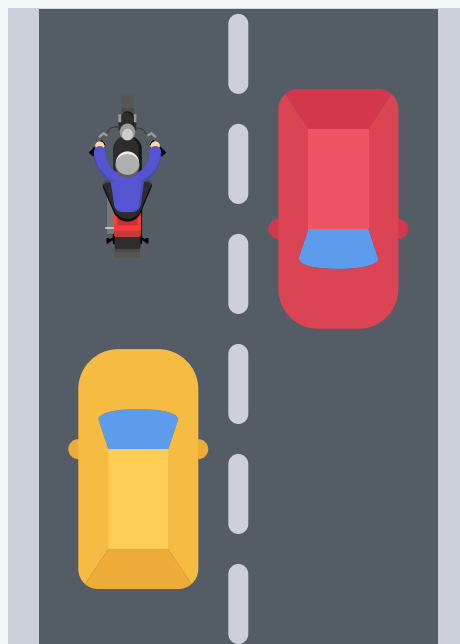
Road Positioning & Motorbike Differences in Queensland

In some countries, drivers position their cars in the centre of the lane because they need to share the road with motorbikes on both the left and right sides. However, in Australia, motorbikes ride in the same lane as cars and must follow the same road rules.

✓ In Queensland:

You should keep left whenever possible. This is different from some countries where cars tend to drive in the centre of the lane or shift position for motorbikes.

In some countries, drivers stay in the centre of the lane because motorbikes pass on both the left and right. In Queensland, motorbikes ride in the same lane as cars and cannot filter through moving traffic.



✓ Left Lane Positioning in a Single-Lane Road

If the road has only one lane in each direction:

- Stay as close to the left side of the lane as possible.
- This allows better visibility and safety, especially for emergency vehicles and cyclists.

Pedestrian Crossings: Zebra vs. Non-Zebra Lines

In Queensland, understanding the different types of pedestrian crossings is crucial for both safety and compliance with road rules. Pedestrian crossings are categorized into two types based on their markings: zebra crossings and non-zebra crossings. Both require drivers to be vigilant, but there are distinct rules for each.

✓ Zebra Crossings:

- **Right of Way:** Pedestrians have the right of way at zebra crossings. Drivers must stop if a pedestrian is waiting to cross or is already crossing.
- **Visual Markings:** These crossings are clearly marked with bold white stripes and specific signage to indicate priority for pedestrians.
- **Driver Responsibility:** When approaching a zebra crossing, drivers must slow down and stop, ensuring pedestrians can cross safely.



✓ Non-Zebra Crossings:

- **Lower Priority for Pedestrians:** While these crossings are designated pedestrian areas, they do not automatically grant pedestrians the same priority as zebra crossings.
- **Driver Caution:** Drivers must still be aware of pedestrians and be prepared to stop, but pedestrians are not automatically given the right of way as they are at zebra crossings.
- **Less Prominent Markings:** Non-zebra crossings may lack the bold stripes and signage, making them less visible to both drivers and pedestrians.

Understanding Demerit Points in Queensland

In many countries, drivers only face fines for breaking traffic rules, but Queensland has a unique system where drivers also receive demerit points for offenses. These points can lead to serious consequences, including license suspension.

✓ What are Demerit Points?

Demerit points are assigned to your license when you break road rules, such as speeding or using a phone while driving. If you accumulate too many points, you could lose your license temporarily or permanently.

✓ **License Suspension:** If you accumulate 12 or more demerit points within 3 years, your license could be suspended for a period of time, and you will not be allowed to drive during this period.

Offense	Demerit Points
Speeding	
- 1-10 km/h over the limit	1 point
- 11-20 km/h over the limit	2 points
- 21-30 km/h over the limit	3 points
- 31-40 km/h over the limit	4 points
- 41-50 km/h over the limit	6 points
- More than 50 km/h over the limit	8 points
Using a Mobile Phone While Driving	4 points
Running a Red Light	3 points
Not Wearing a Seatbelt	3 points

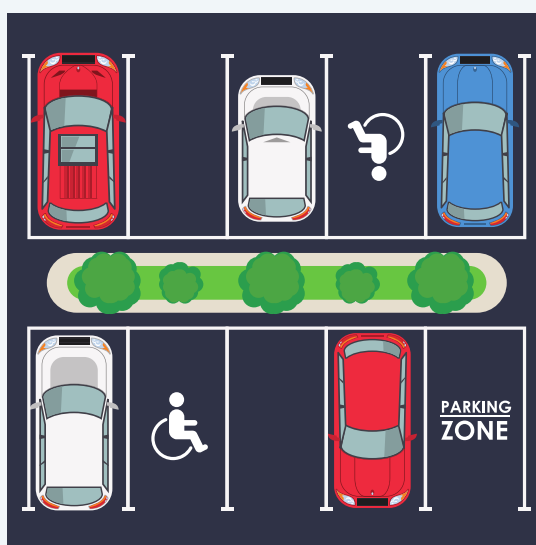
Parking in Queensland: What Overseas Drivers Need to Know

✓ Paid Parking Zones:

- In Queensland, many urban areas have metered parking or ticket parking. This means that you must pay to park in designated areas. If you fail to pay or overstay the allowed time, you will receive a parking fine.
- Parking Ticket Machines or Pay-by-Phone Services are common, so always check the parking sign to see if you need to pay.

✓ Free Parking Zones:

In some residential areas or certain parking lots, you may find free parking. However, there will typically be time limits(e.g., 1 or 2 hours). You must still follow the time restrictions to avoid fines.



✓ No Parking Zones:

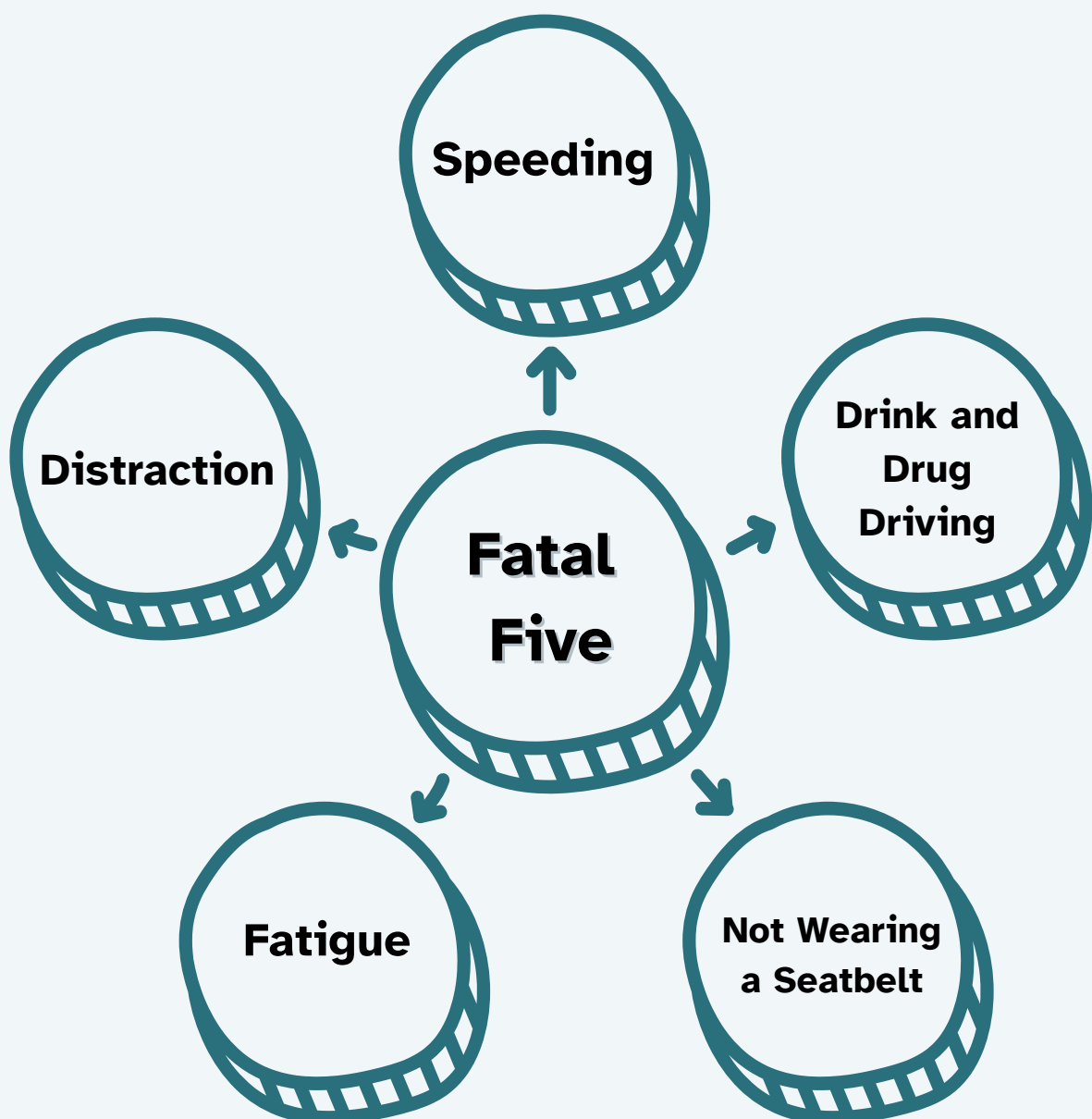
There are many places where you cannot park at all, such as No Parking or No Stopping zones. These areas are strictly regulated, and parking here can result in fines or your car being towed.

✓ Disabled Parking:

- Parking in disabled spaces without a valid permit is prohibited. This results in a large fine and can also lead to your vehicle being towed.
- Always check for the disability parking signs before parking your car.

What are the Fatal Five in Queensland Road Safety?

The **Fatal Five** are the top five reasons people die or get badly hurt in car crashes in Queensland. If we avoid these, we can save lives and keep everyone safe on the road.



Speeding: A Big No-No in Queensland

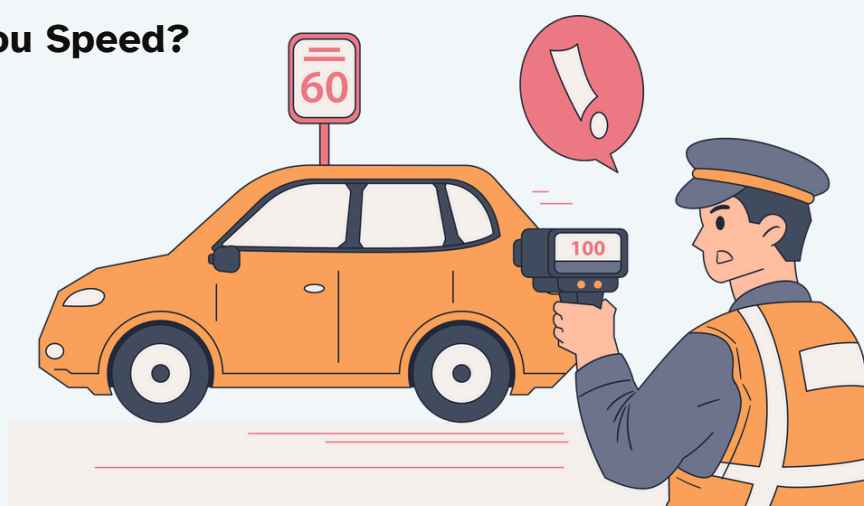
Speeding is one of the leading causes of road accidents, and Queensland has strict rules to keep everyone safe on the roads. While some overseas drivers may not be as aware of these rules, it's important to understand that speeding is taken very seriously here!

✓ Speed Limits to Keep in Mind

- **Residential Areas:** The speed limit is usually 50 km/h unless signs say otherwise.
- **School Zones:** During school hours, the speed limit drops to 40 km/h to protect children.
- **Highways:** On some highways, the limit can go up to 110 km/h, but always follow the posted signs carefully.

✓ What Happens if You Speed?

- **Fines:** Speeding can lead to hefty fines. The more you exceed the limit, the higher the fine!
- **Demerit Points:** Speeding results in demerit points being added to your license. If you collect too many, you could lose your license!
- **License Suspension:** Serious speeding violations can cause your license to be suspended—this means you won't be allowed to drive at all!



In Queensland, learner drivers are restricted to a maximum speed of 90 km/h.

“*In many countries, speed limits might not be as strictly enforced. But in Queensland, speeding is closely monitored by both police and speed cameras.*”

Drink and Drug Driving

Different Laws in Their Country

- In some countries, drink driving is not as strictly enforced or may even be socially acceptable.
- They might be used to driving after a few drinks and think it's "normal" or safe.
- Drug driving laws may not exist or be enforced at all.

Drink and drug driving:

Alcohol and drugs affect your brain and body. They can:

- Make you slower to react
- Make you feel sleepy or dizzy
- Make it hard to think clearly
- Affect your vision and judgment
- Make you take dangerous risks

This means you can't drive safely, and you are more likely to crash.

Alcohol – Blood Alcohol Limit (BAC):

If you're caught over the limit:

- **You can lose your licence**
- **Get a big fine**
- **Be sent to court**
- **Even go to jail if it's serious**



Driver Type	Legal BAC Limit
Learner (L) and Provisional (P) drivers	0.00 – No alcohol at all
Professional drivers (taxi, truck, bus)	0.00
All other drivers (full licence)	0.05

Not Wearing a Seatbelt

✓ A seatbelt is a safety strap that holds you in your seat in case the car stops suddenly or crashes

- It protects you from:
- Being thrown out of the car
- Hitting the dashboard or windscreen
- Serious injury or death

✓ What Happens If You Don't Wear One?

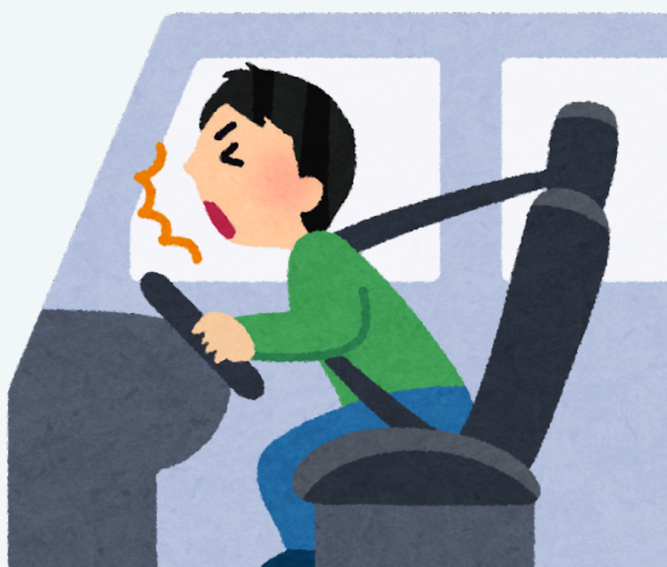
- In a crash at 60 km/h, your body can be thrown forward like it weighs a tonne.
- You could be thrown through the window or hit other people inside the car.
- Even in a small crash, people without seatbelts can be badly hurt or killed.

✓ The Law in Queensland

- Everyone in the car must wear a seatbelt — driver and passengers.
- Children must be in the correct child seat or booster, depending on their age and size.
- The driver is responsible for making sure passengers are wearing seatbelts.

✓ Why Some Overseas Drivers Don't Use Seatbelts

- In some countries, seatbelt rules don't apply to passengers or are not enforced.
- People may think "It's just a short trip" – but most crashes happen close to home.
- Others believe that seatbelts are uncomfortable or "not necessary" in the back seat.



✓ What Happens If You Break the Rule?

If you or your passenger isn't wearing a seatbelt:

- You can get a fine of over \$1,000
- You can lose demerit points
- You may be injured or killed if there's a crash

Fatigue – Driving When You're Tired

✓ What is Fatigue?

Fatigue means being very tired, sleepy, or having low energy.

It can happen when:

- You haven't had enough sleep
- You've been driving for a long time
- You're driving late at night or early in the morning
- You're sick, stressed, or on certain medications

✓ Why Is Fatigue Dangerous?

When you're tired, your brain doesn't work properly. You:

- Take longer to react
- Can't focus on the road
- May miss signs or other cars
- Could even fall asleep while driving

Even if your eyes are open, your brain might not be fully awake. This is called "microsleep" — your brain switches off for 1 to 5 seconds. That's long enough to crash.

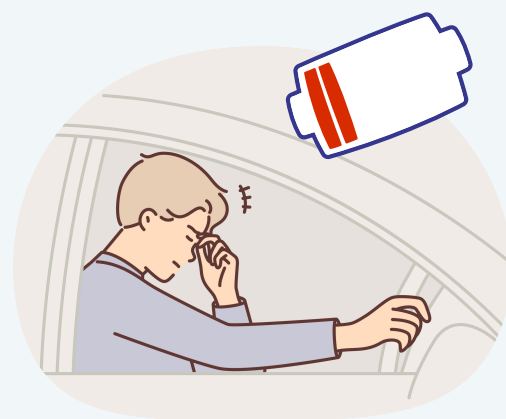
✓ Signs You Are Too Tired to Drive:

- Yawning a lot
- Heavy eyes or blinking more than usual
- Trouble keeping your head up
- Daydreaming or forgetting the last few kilometres
- Drifting in your lane
- Feeling irritable or restless

If you notice these signs, you must stop driving.

✓ How to Prevent Fatigue

Tip	Explanation
zzz Get enough sleep	Try to sleep 7–8 hours before driving
🔴 Take breaks	Stop every 2 hours or 100km for 15 minutes
🍏 Stay fresh	Eat light, healthy food and drink water
🚫 Don't rely on coffee	Caffeine helps short-term but won't fix real tiredness
🚫 Don't drive at night	Especially between midnight and 6am – your body is naturally sleepy
👤 Share the drive	If possible, take turns with another driver

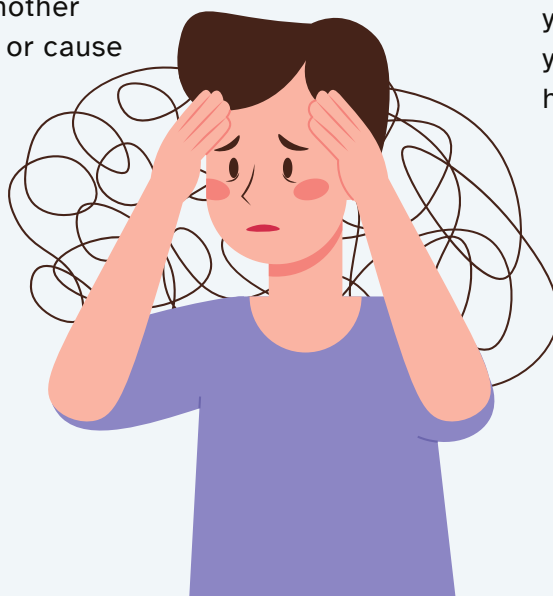


Distraction – How It Affects Your Driving

Distraction is anything that takes your focus away from the road. When you are distracted, you can't drive safely because your mind or eyes are not on what's happening around you.

✓ Why is Distraction Dangerous?

- When you're distracted, even for just a few seconds:
- You can miss important road signs or traffic lights.
- Your reaction time slows down — so you might not stop in time to avoid an accident.
- You can drift into another lane, hit something, or cause a crash.



✓ Phone Use and Distraction

- Using your phone while driving is one of the most dangerous distractions. This includes:
 - Texting
 - Talking on the phone
 - Using social media or apps
 - Checking messages
- In Queensland, it is illegal to use your phone while driving unless you are using Bluetooth or a hands-free device.

✓ Examples of Distractions:

- Texting or talking on the phone
- Changing the radio station or music
- Eating or drinking
- Talking to passengers or getting too distracted by them

✓ The Risks of Distraction

- Inattention is one of the top causes of accidents and deaths on the road.
- Just looking at your phone for 5 seconds while driving at 60 km/h means you've traveled 83 meters without looking at the road. That's like driving the length of a football field blindfolded!

Practical Driving Test in Queensland: What Overseas Drivers Need to Know

✓ Q-SAFE System

Queensland's driving test uses the Q-SAFE system. This is a comprehensive driving assessment system that evaluates your ability to drive safely and confidently on public roads.

Q-SAFE involves several components:

- Road Safety: How well you drive while following traffic rules.
- Driver Control: Your ability to control the vehicle safely.
- Traffic Conditions: How you manage to drive in various traffic conditions.

"In some countries, driving tests are often performed in controlled environments or off-road courses."



Under Q-SAFE, the practical driving test includes a series of on-road tasks like navigating through intersections, merging lanes, and performing basic maneuvers like parking and turning. The goal of Q-SAFE is to ensure drivers have the skills needed for safe driving in any situation

What Happens if You Fail the Practical Driving Test with an Overseas License?

✓ What Happens After Failing the Practical Test

- Driving with an overseas license: If your overseas license is suspended after failing the test, you cannot drive again until you pass the test or apply for a Learner License.
- During the test: You are allowed to drive only with the examiner present during the test. If you wish to practice or drive for any other purpose, you must first apply for a Learner License.

✓ Apply for a Learner License

If your overseas driver's license has been suspended after failing the practical driving test, you cannot drive until you pass the test. In this case, you may need to apply for a Learner License. This license allows you to practice driving with a supervisor who holds a full Australian driver's license. Here's what to do:

- Pass the written road rules test if you haven't already done so. This test covers the Queensland road rules, and you must complete it to obtain a Learner License.
- Supervised driving: Once you get your Learner License, you can drive under the supervision of a licensed driver (with a full license). This allows you to practice for the practical test.

✓ Reattempt the Practical Test

After obtaining the Learner License, you can use this time to practice for the practical driving test. When you feel ready, you can reattempt the practical test. You will need to:

- Schedule a test: You can book another practical driving test through Queensland Transport and Main Roads (TMR).
- Prepare thoroughly: It's recommended to take driving lessons from a qualified instructor to ensure you are well-prepared for the practical test. This will help you understand Queensland's road rules and get used to driving in real traffic conditions.



"If you fail your practical driving test in Queensland, you can retake the test. The waiting period between reattempts depends on how many times you've failed"



You're One Step Closer to Getting Your License!

You've now learned the essential road rules and tips for safe driving in Queensland. We hope this guide has been helpful in your learning process. Remember, driving is not just about following rules but also about being responsible and considerate on the road.

- **Practice makes perfect:** Take your time, be patient, and practice regularly to improve your skills.
- **Stay safe and aware:** Always keep your attention on the road, follow the rules, and be mindful of others.
- **Get the support you need:** Don't hesitate to reach out for additional resources, lessons, or community programs to help you succeed.

At **Centacare FNQ**, we are here to support you every step of the way on your journey to becoming a safe, confident driver. Whether you need help with understanding road rules, finding a driving instructor, or learning more about licensing requirements, we're here for you.

centacare
MAKING A DIFFERENCE **FNQ**

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25 March 2025

Date

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