

# Video transcript: Reducing the Harm Caused by Drugs on Victorian Roads

## About this review

Drug driving is a major road safety and public health issue.

In this audit we examined the effectiveness of Victoria Police's roadside drug testing program. The program aims to reduce road deaths and injuries by detecting and deterring drug drivers.

Victoria Police receives funding for 150,000 tests a year – equivalent to about 3 per cent of all drivers in Victoria.

To maximise its impact on road safety Victoria Police must use this limited number of tests effectively.

## What we concluded

We concluded that the program has made a positive contribution to road safety, but it is not fully effective.

We made 3 key findings.

### Key finding 1

First, Victoria Police doesn't have a clearly documented approach to deterring drug drivers.

For example, bus-based testing deters drivers in different ways than patrol-car-based testing. Therefore, to get the most out of its limited number of tests, Victoria Police should clearly plan and evaluate allocations.

### Key finding 2

Second, Victoria Police doesn't know if its officers always comply with key program rules, including uploading a digital record of each banning notice to its database.

Banning notices prohibit alleged offenders from driving for 12 or 24 hours. The database of digital records helps officers detect people violating a ban.

Without complete digital records, officers may not detect people who violate a banning notice.

And Victoria Police doesn't know if all drivers found to be potentially drug-affected actually receive a ban.

Under program rules, officers should also discuss support services with alleged offenders, but Victoria Police doesn't monitor if this is happening.

### Key finding 3

Third, while Victoria Police has made some improvements to the program, it could get better results by taking a more strategic approach.

For example, continuing its work to automate how it collects data from roadside tests could make the program more efficient and scalable.

### What we recommended

To address these issues we made 10 recommendations to Victoria Police about how it:

- documents key processes
- monitors testing
- and manages the program's development.

### More information

Interested in finding out more? See the full report on our website.