

Video transcript: Reducing the Harm Caused by Distracted Drivers

What we examined

Using a mobile device while driving and not wearing a seatbelt increases the risk of road accidents, serious injuries and death on Victoria's roads.

The distracted driver and seatbelt detection camera program aims to improve road safety by raising awareness of these risks, increasing law enforcement and changing road users' behaviour.

This audit looked at whether the program is achieving this, and how the Department of Justice and Community Safety and Victoria Police are managing the program.

We made 3 key findings.

Key finding 1

The department does not know if the program is reducing road accidents, serious injuries and deaths. And it does not have a clear approach to measure this.

Key finding 2

The processes used to verify images and issue infringements works as intended. But Victoria Police's process for identifying camera sites is not well designed, and Victoria Police does not record its decisions consistently.

Key finding 3

There are gaps in how the department administers the program, including privacy and data assurance issues.

What we recommended

We made 5 recommendations, including:

- 3 to the Department of Justice and Community Safety about:
 - measuring and reporting on the program's contribution to road safety
 - keeping images for permitted timeframes
 - and verifying its contractor's self-reported data
- and 2 to Victoria Police about:
 - updating its camera site selection criteria
 - and improving its record keeping.

More information

For more information, or to read our full report, go to audit.vic.gov.au.