

DRINK-DRIVER EDUCATION

The Drink Driver Education (DDE) course offered throughout the NT is aimed at reducing the number of drink-drivers who re-offend. Attendance at an alcohol awareness course is a requirement of licence renewal for those who have lost their licence for drink-driving.

A review of the DDE course by Amity Community Services found that 12.8% of drink-drivers reoffend within three years of completing the course (*NT Report, page 20*).

What should change

- The NT Report recommends a further review of the effectiveness of the current mandatory Drink Driver Education course, reporting back to Cabinet by August 2007.

DRUG-DRIVING

YOUR RISK | The NT has Australia's highest level of certain drug use but police have no powers to test drivers for drugs. Almost one-in-three people detained for driving offences tested positive to drugs.

A number of drugs have the potential to increase the risk of road crashes. They include cannabis, benzodiazepines, amphetamines and opiates.

Drug-driving data, gathered during a pilot study as part of the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) project, indicated that in the NT almost one-in-three people detained for driving offences tested positive to illicit drugs.

The NT is one of only two states or territories without legislation allowing blood and/or urine testing for drugs. Several states and territories have random roadside testing legislation in place or are developing it. Blood samples cannot be tested for drugs other than alcohol in the NT (*NT Report, pages 21 - 23*).

What should change

- Amend the *Traffic Act* to provide the necessary power to collect samples of blood to test for drugs:
 - from people involved in motor vehicle crashes
 - in the case of dangerous or unexplained driver behaviour.
- Create a new offence in the *Traffic Act* for driving having consumed a prohibited drug.
- Create a community information campaign on changes to drug-driving laws (*NT Report, page 24*).