



Peer Group Road Safety Agreement





In Australia every year, hundreds of us are devastated by the death and injury of family and friends on the roads. Evidence shows that while improvements in car design, road design and safety equipment have made a difference the biggest single factor is still behaviour. This Agreement gives you the chance to make a commitment, as a group, to support each other to try to keep each other alive.

The Roads 2 Survival™ Program was developed by young people, parents and other concerned community members to help families and/or friends to discuss and manage issues involving young drivers and road crashes. The cornerstones of the program are discussion, family, friendship, trust, responsibility and choice. The Roads to Survival™ Program provides a framework to help you to discuss and hopefully to improve your own and your families' and friends' safety on the roads.

Roads 2 Survival™ has a number of Road Safety Agreements. Different options will suit different people. This one, the **Peer Group Road Safety Agreement** can be used in addition to, or in place of, the Young Person/Parent Safe Driving Agreement.

The Roads 2 Survival™ Peer Group Road Safety Agreement is designed to provide a broad road safety framework for peer groups to consider.

Any number from two up can be involved -

- People who are members of clubs or teams may wish to be involved with their clubmates/teammates;
- a friendship group may wish to be involved together;
- a class group may decide to work together;
- even siblings may wish to agree to provide mutual support.

Any group can decide to do this.

It is suggested that the group discuss the agreement together and decide which elements they feel are appropriate for them.

The Agreement covers a number of issues and you are free to omit or modify items as you see fit. This concept is about individuals taking responsibility for, and control of, their own destiny. You may even end up just talking about this and then not signing the agreement. Even then, at least you will have considered and discussed the issues.

It is your choice.



Every year in Australia many young people suffer the agony of losing friends to road crashes. Using the Australian tradition of "Mateship" maybe we can help each other to avoid this.

Peer Group Road Safety Agreement

Peers/Friends

Young people, you have friends who you care about, and who care about you.

You have reached an age where you are taking on more and more adult responsibilities.

Each year in Australia too many young people die or are injured on the roads. Each death or injury affects not only the individual but also a large number of family and friends.

This Agreement is a chance for you and your friends to make a commitment to look after each other.

Remember you can decide as a group to modify or omit any part of this agreement. It is your choice.

If you follow the Agreement you may save a life, although you will almost certainly never know.

So why should you commit to this Agreement to stick by your friends?.....

.....because true friends are friends always, not just for the easy stuff.

We acknowledge that the right to drive involves responsibilities.

We acknowledge that we care about our friends and they care about us.

As a sign of our care and respect for each other, we promise to try to keep ourselves alive on the roads, and also that we will do everything we can to discourage our friends from engaging in dangerous behaviour on the roads, however difficult that might be for us.

Name.....

Name.....

Name.....

Name.....

Name.....

Name.....

Name.....

Name.....

Name.....

Name.....

Name.....

Name.....

If there is not enough space you can write extra names to the left of this column and/or on an extra sheet.



Peer Group Road Safety Agreement

Tick the items that you agree on.

The safety of my friends is my top priority.

Unqualified Help Anytime

Promise to provide support when needed for our peers/friends.

My/Our friends' safety is of overriding importance to me/us.

I/We will be there for them when they need me/us.

If ever one of my/our friends feels that he/she is in a difficult or potentially dangerous situation, I/we agree to accept a call at any time and to arrange/ensure safe transport or other necessary help for him/her.

I/we agree that this will be done in a calm and non judgmental manner with "no questions asked".

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

Promise to ask for support when needed from my peers/friend.

My friends will be there for me when I need them.

If ever I feel that I am in a difficult or potentially dangerous situation, I agree to call one (or more if necessary) of my friends at any time for help.

I understand that my request for help will be met with in a calm and non judgmental manner.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

In Australia over 25% of crashes causing injury are rear end collisions. We agree to drive defensively.

Defensive Driving

Our friends need us, and we need our friends. We will try our best to keep ourselves and others alive.

We agree to allow for a safe margin of space between vehicles, adjusting for road conditions.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

In particular, we agree not to "tailgate". We understand that on dry roads a safe gap is a minimum of one car length per 15 km/h. On wet roads it is greater.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We acknowledge that there are more vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists especially young/small ones. We will look out for them. We will be especially vigilant around schools and suburban back streets.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

Every year people die from being unrestrained or inadequately restrained in vehicle crashes.

Safety Devices

We agree that all children/infants will use appropriately sized and correctly fitted child seats/infant capsules at all times.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We agree to never hold a child on a lap whilst in a moving car.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We agree that all vehicle occupants will wear seatbelts correctly at all times.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement



In Australia, hospitalized road crash victims have over 20 times the frequency of alcohol and illicit drug use (particularly marijuana) when compared with other road users.

Drugs/Alcohol

We will not drive if we have been drinking or using drugs which may affect our ability to drive safely.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We will only be a passenger in a vehicle where the driver is sober and not affected by drugs.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We will only allow one of our group to be a passenger in a vehicle where the driver is sober and not affected by drugs.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We will not allow one of our group to drive unless he/she is sober and not affected by drugs.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

When out as a group we will always have a designated driver who will remain sober and drug free. We will rotate this role amongst us all.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement.

Australia has long driving distances and fatigue is a recurrent factor in crashes. Many lives are ruined every year as a result of drivers falling asleep.

Fatigue/Mood/Physical-Health/Environment

We understand that being tired, upset, angry, late, sick or injured can affect our driving capability. We will not allow these things to put our lives at risk.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We will be aware of weather/road conditions that may affect our driving and will adjust our driving or pull over, as necessary.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We agree to plan and take breaks during long trips as a part of fatigue management.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We agree to stop driving immediately and rest, regardless of trip length, if we should start to doze while driving.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We agree to remind our groups members to rest if they seem to be tired/sleepy while driving.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement



Distractions are a common cause of crashes. We agree to keep our minds on the road, and our hands on the wheel.

Distractions

We agree to pull over to use a mobile phone to talk, or to send or receive text/video messages.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We agree that we will remind our group members to pull over to use a mobile phone to talk, or to send or receive text/video messages when they are driving and we are in the car with them.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We agree to keep interior volume to a level that allows outside sounds, in particular sirens, to be heard.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We agree not to smoke while driving.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We agree not to eat food or drink beverages while driving.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

Fatal crashes are more likely with young drivers when other teenagers are in the car. The risk increases with each additional passenger.

Teenage Passengers

We understand the need to be extra vigilant when carrying other young people as passengers.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We agree to minimise driver distractions when we are passengers in a car driven by one of our group.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

In Australia, after alcohol, speed is the next most common factor in fatal crashes. Whole families die every year in speed related crashes.

Speed limits and other road rules

We will not exceed marked speed limits.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We will adjust for road conditions/weather when necessary.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We will obey all road and traffic laws.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

Legally, "road rage" can be classed as "common assault". We will not engage in "road rage" behaviour.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

If an infringement occurs while we are driving, we accept full responsibility for any penalties/fines.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We acknowledge that we are legally required to stop immediately and to render assistance in the event of a crash. We are also required to exchange details with any other driver involved. We are responsible for contacting the local police as required by law.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

Driving between the hours of midnight and 6:00am greatly increases crash death rates especially for new young drivers.

Night Driving Hours

We agree we will try to minimise our driving between midnight and 6:00 am.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement



Driving an unfamiliar vehicle can result in an increased crash risk.

Registered Vehicle Owner

We agree that the registered owner of any vehicle will be informed as soon as possible if any damage should occur to the car.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We agree that we will not allow anyone to drive a car that we are responsible for, without the specific permission of the registered owner of that car.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

We agree that the care and control of the car may be transferred to another responsible person, without the registered owner's specific permission, if it is required in an emergency situation and/or to maintain one's safety.

- Tick box to indicate group agreement

Correct equipment can be vital and even life saving in a breakdown, crash or other emergency.

Promise to ensure my vehicle is safe to drive

A car's mechanical condition is important to road safety. I will ensure my car is in proper mechanical condition (including its tyre condition) before using it. I will ensure there is an emergency road kit in my car and that any used items are restocked immediately.

The following emergency road kit items are suggested by police and driving instructors. Please copy this list for each group member and check the items that you feel are necessary:

- mobile phone
- first aid kit
- pen/paper
- water
- jack
- spare tyre
- jumper cables
- assorted tools
- fire extinguisher
- drivers license
- car registration
- blanket

Other:.....

- Tick box to indicate group agreement



Agreement

We agree to accept the terms of the agreement as indicated by the statements and checked/initialed boxes.

Signature.....Date.....

Signature.....Date.....

Signature.....Date.....

Signature.....Date.....

Signature.....Date.....

Signature.....Date.....

Signature.....Date.....

Signature.....Date.....

Signature.....Date.....

Signature.....Date.....

Signature.....Date.....

Signature.....Date.....

Please attach additional sheet if more room for additional signatures is needed

This Australian pilot program has been based on a number of previous similar initiatives from Australia and around the world. It has been developed in Australia to address Australian issues. It is not currently affiliated with any other program. Please contact Dr Bill Griggs (wgriggs@bigpond.net.au) or see the website below for more information if required.

<http://www.roads2survival.com.au>
roads2survival@bigpond.com.au

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