



Pedestrian safety

Pedestrians are vulnerable road users because they have no protection if they're hit by a vehicle, which puts them at greater risk of injury or death.

Most pedestrian fatalities and injuries happen in daylight, in dry conditions and in areas with a 50km/h and 60km/h speed limit, and often occur near the victim's home.

Use a pedestrian crossing with signals wherever possible

- Press the walk button and wait for the green walk signal.
- Waiting times will be longer at some locations during peak periods, so be patient.
- Once the lights have changed and all traffic has stopped, start walking.
- On multi-lane roads, be sure that vehicles in all lanes (including cycle lanes) have stopped before crossing, even if the green symbol is showing.
 - A green symbol means you can cross, if it's safe to do so.
 - A flashing red symbol means you can continue to cross but must not start crossing (penalties under Australian Road Rule 231 apply for breaching this rule).
 - A steady red symbol means don't start to cross – wait until the green symbol appears before beginning to cross. Penalties apply for starting to cross on red.
- Even if the road is clear of vehicles, you must wait for a walk signal because cars can come from side roads and around corners.
- Some crossings at busy locations have countdown timers showing how many seconds of crossing time remains.

Crossing the road at other locations

Pedestrians must cross at traffic signals or pedestrian crossings if they're within 20 metres. Penalties can apply for breaching this rule (Australian Road Rule 234).

- If there isn't a designated pedestrian crossing close by, choose the shortest, most direct route. On multi-lane roads, consider crossing where traffic islands separate the different directions of traffic, so you can cross the road in two stages.
- Always stop, look right, left, and right again before crossing the road.
- Wait for a sufficient gap in the traffic to cross safely, particularly when crossing with children or elderly people.
- Don't cross the road from between parked cars, or near trees or bushes, because drivers may not see you.
- Avoid crossing near a bend or crest in the road. Give yourself a good chance to see vehicles coming from both directions.
- Avoid crossing on roundabouts, particularly multi-lane roundabouts as they can be very busy. Instead, use designated crossing points that are usually located away from the roundabout.



General safety tips for pedestrians

If possible, plan walking routes to include footpaths, shared paths, nature strips, quieter roads and signalised pedestrian crossings. Avoid walking on the road.

- If interaction with traffic is unavoidable, always walk facing the traffic. Establish eye contact with the drivers of approaching vehicles – never assume a driver has seen you just because you’ve seen them.
- Walk at quieter times of the day if possible.
- Make yourself more visible at night by carrying a torch or wearing reflective clothing.
- Don’t listen to music while walking because it’s distracting and makes it harder to hear the noises around you.
- Remember, cyclists and some cars are so quiet that you might not hear them.
- Don’t use your phone while walking, especially when crossing roads – you won’t be paying attention to what’s going on around you.
- Watch out for obstructions and uneven surfaces, and be aware of all of your surroundings.
- Be aware of motorists turning into and driving out of driveways. Although they need to give way to you, they may not always see you.
- In car parks, try to stick to walkways and watch for reversing lights on parked vehicles that indicate they’re about to move.

We’re here to help

Call RAA’s road safety team on 8202 4517,
email roadsafety@raa.com.au or
visit raa.com.au/roadsafety

Teaching children

Children are particularly vulnerable around roads, and it’s important they learn road safety at an early age. Here are some tips on how to teach your children about pedestrian safety.

- Young children should always be accompanied by an adult when walking. Until the age of about 10 or 11, children may not have the necessary skills and physical abilities to be safe around roads without adult supervision.
- Help your child make decisions about where to walk, as well as where and when to cross the road. Teach them to stop, look and listen, and explain why it’s important to do so.
- When walking with your child, explain traffic signs and show them how to use the different types of pedestrian crossings.
- Teach children to be observant and aware of their environment.
- Remember that school zones are not pedestrian crossings, and although cars are driving slowly, you still need to remain attentive.

What can drivers do?

Speed can have a significant impact on pedestrian safety. Any speed above 30km/h significantly increases the risk of a pedestrian sustaining serious or fatal injuries if hit by a vehicle.

The risk of a crash increases with the speed of the vehicle because it takes longer to stop. Also, the driver has less time to react to avoid a collision, or could even lose control of the vehicle completely.

Drivers should be vigilant and slow down in areas of high pedestrian activity, particularly around schools and shopping centres.