

SCHOOL LEAVERS 2025

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND LEAVERS

School Leavers

Before they go

Know their plans for Leavers

- Encourage your child to celebrate during the official Leavers period – this is the safest time for them to celebrate.
- Know how they will be getting to and from their destination, and how they intend to travel around once they arrive.
- Obtain a copy of the accommodation contract/terms and conditions of the contract and discuss these with your child.
- Encourage your child to work out a budget for Leavers.
- Check that your child has your contact details for next of kin at leavers and home.
- Inform your child that if they experience any problems, they should contact you, or the WA Police or any of the support services.
- Follow the Leavers WA Instagram and Facebook to stay up to date.
- Make sure they have a plan in case of an emergency, and that they know how to contact emergency services.
- Talk to your child about your expectations for their behaviour during Leavers week, and make sure they understand any consequences of breaking the rules.
- Make sure your child has a way to contact you at all times and make an agreement about checking in with you each day.

Let your child know that you're there to support them, no matter what happens. Encourage them to reach out to you if they need help or advice.

Know your responsibilities

- Do not provide your children with alcohol to take to Leavers. All Leavers WA events are alcohol, drug and smoke (including vapes) free.
- Under the Liquor Control Act, juveniles are unable to possess alcohol in a public place. Opened or unopened alcohol will be confiscated by WA Police and juveniles will be fined \$200.
- Adults may also be breaking the law and can be fined up to \$2,000.
- Parents are reminded that research shows that young people who drink alcohol in an unsupervised manner consume alcohol at more harmful levels.

Talk about safety

- Discuss the dangers and consequences of binge drinking with your child. The Alcohol.Think Again website provides information for parents specific to Leavers.
- Illicit drugs aren't often associated with Leavers. It would be worthwhile knowing some of the risks associated with illicit drug use. For more information about illegal drugs, you can visit Drug Aware.

What the Police Expect from You

Obey the Law and Keep the Peace

Officers from the WA Police Force want all people in our community to be safe and keep the peace. This includes young people attending Leavers and locals in the host community.

Police will be around to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable time. Treat the Police with respect and the way you would like to be treated. They have the task of ensuring that you don't 'step over the line'. Respect yourself, be kind and respect others, including your fellow leavers, staff and volunteers, and the local community. Know that if you do the wrong thing, Police will be there to hold you to account for your behaviour. Remember, your actions have consequences.

Remember to make your parents and loved ones proud by how you conduct yourself. No one wants their Leavers experience cut short, and no parent wants the Police knocking on their door late at night.

This means:

- No drinking alcohol in public: Police can issue up to \$2,000 on the spot fines or arrest for street drinking.
- No drugs: If Police suspect you are using, selling or supplying drugs you may be stopped and searched at any time.
- No fighting: Antisocial, aggressive or intimidating behaviour will not be tolerated. Attendees who fail to comply with the Event Terms and Conditions may be refused entry or removed from Leavers WA events or services.
- Respect others on social media. Think before you post, comment, or share.

Road Safety

Young drivers aged 17 to 19 are three times more likely to have a crash resulting in death than drivers aged 20 years or older so it's important to plan to make every journey safe this Leavers.

Be aware of the risks

- Novice drivers are more likely to be involved in a crash at night due to their inexperience and reduced visibility.
- Novice drivers may experience increased fatigue and distraction.
- Driving on unfamiliar roads can reduce the ability to predict hazards.

How to minimise the risks

- Ensure the car is roadworthy before leaving.
- Know your insurance and roadside assistance details.
- Drive in daylight hours and take regular breaks/share the driving.
- School is over and there are no deadlines on Leavers. So, take your time, don't go above the speed limit and don't rush to overtake.
- Put mobile phones in the boot or have them switched to 'do not disturb while driving' mode.
- Buckle Up. Make sure to wear your seatbelt, it could save your life.

Safe driving behaviours

- Ensure you and your passengers are wearing a seatbelt.
- Keep a minimum of a two second gap from the vehicle in front.
- Having multiple people in your car can be a distraction. Agree a plan together before you go. Share the driving, allocate one car DJ. No arguments.
- Drive to the conditions.
- Be patient and calm.
- Drive in harmony with heavy vehicles - be aware of blind spots and extra braking distances and maintain a constant speed.
- Look out for wildlife.

Pedestrian Safety

- Use footpaths. If there are none, walk on the far right so you can see and react to oncoming traffic.
- Move off the road until the vehicle passes.
- Avoid texting while walking.
- Walk under streetlights or ensure you have a torch light on you.
- Look out for each other and stay together.
- Consider wearing bright clothing if walking at night.
- Make sure to look after your mates.

Road Safety

What to do if you see an accident on the road

- Check it's safe before you help, especially on roads.
- Call Triple Zero (000) – The St John communications officer will talk you through First Aid and will help keep you calm.
- Check and open the airways of those involved in the crash by a simple tilt of the head – a closed airway is the most common cause of death.
- DRSABCD – Danger, Response, Send, Airway, Breathing, CPR, Defibrillation.

Be prepared

- Download St John's First Responder App – it provides a GPS location when a Triple Zero (000) call is activated through the app and has free First Aid guides.
- Consider purchasing a first aid kit for your car.
- Spend 30 minutes completing a free first aid course designed for new drivers called Click to Save – it may save a life.

Young Drivers

Heading off to Leavers is an exciting time and it might be your first long road trip. There are a large number of inexperienced drivers on the roads at this time of the year. Most car accidents are caused by tired drivers, those who have consumed alcohol, and those who don't have much experience driving.

Don't drink and drive

If you are heading out, nominate a driver or leave the car at home, use public transport where available. One poor decision can lead to a lifetime of regret.

- Don't drive tired. Ensure that there are a few people in the car who can share the driving – as a rule try swapping drivers at least every 2 hours.
- Look for “driver reviver” stations. These stations offer refreshments and are provided for your safety.
- Do not use mobile phones whilst driving. Fines of up to \$1000 can be issued for this.
- The driver is legally responsible for all passengers.
- The driver needs to ensure that seat belts are worn by all passengers. Yes, ALL passengers.
- Under ‘Anti-hoon’ legislation, people who endanger innocent lives through reckless behaviour can now have their vehicles impounded.

Novice Driver Legislation

- Provisional Drivers are not allowed to drive between the hours of midnight and 5am unless for work, training or education purposes. Those found driving at these times face fines and the loss of demerit points.
- Learner and Provisional Drivers who fail to display the correct plates identifying their driving status may receive a fine up to \$150.
- P-plate drivers' Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) must be zero.

Support Services

Red Frogs

Over 1400 Red Frog volunteers provide direct relief, safety and support to young people during Schoolies/Leavers Week across 11 locations.

Red Frogs recognises that the culture of young people is dominated by alcohol. In situations such as Schoolies/Leavers Week, excessive consumption of alcohol and other substances means that things can often get out of hand and potentially alter the direction of a young person's future. Our volunteers act as the eyes and ears in accommodation venues and out on the streets, providing a positive peer presence to school leavers.

Tips:

- Number 1 is "research your destination".
- Number 2 is "Only bring the essentials".
- Finally, know that there is lots of help available so plan ahead to know where to get it!
- Call the Red Frogs Hotline on 1300 557 123 for any non-urgent assistance.

Royal Lifesaving WA

- Royal Life Saving Society WA organises Beach Fest at Meelup Beach.
- Be a Mermate - look out for your mates at the beach and get them out of harm's way before disaster strikes.
- Swimming whilst under the influence, or at night, is dangerous and should be avoided.
- Call an ambulance if you have a serious health emergency.

WAAC

- WAAC has been involved with Leavers WA for 20 years.
- We support Leavers in reducing risk when it comes to sexual activity and the use of alcohol and other drugs.
- Harm reduction is based on the idea of reducing adverse consequences for people who are partaking in an activity.
- We also support LGBTQI+ leavers through advocacy and visibility during the week.
- We have a day team and a night team of around 30 trained volunteers. Our Volunteers will be in RED shirts during Leavers week.
- We are in the Chill Out Tent at the Entertainment Zone - come and relax, chill, chat and watch a movie.
- We encourage parents to have conversations with your young person about sexual health, alcohol and drug use.

Alcohol

Secondary Supply Laws

It is against the law to supply alcohol to anyone under 18 years old in a private setting without permission from their parent or guardian. This includes at home, at a friend's house or at a party.

Many young people attend Leavers expecting to use excessive amounts of alcohol and engage in other risky behaviours. Not drinking alcohol is the best way to ensure Leavers celebrations are positive and memorable.

If your child is planning to use alcohol during Leavers week, here are some tips to help them stay safe and well:

- Don't get in a car with someone you suspect has been drinking or is under the influence of other drugs.
- Take care of yourself – stay hydrated, eat regularly and have a good sleep each night.
- If you are going to drink, eat first, space out your drinks and drink water or non-alcoholic drinks.
- Look after each other. Don't let your friends go off alone.
- Organise a safe, public place to meet if you get separated.
- Stay out of the water (no swimming) if you've been drinking.
- If you or a friend are feeling unwell, get help from the medics.
- Call 000 in an emergency.

Make sure they know the laws that relate to young people and alcohol, including supplying alcohol to someone who is under 18 years of age, and drinking in public place.

Leavers activities are DRUG, ALCOHOL SMOKE & VAPE-FREE, however young people may find themselves in environments where alcohol is being consumed and potentially in situations where people are using drugs. An important part of preparing young people for Leavers, is talking with them about alcohol and other drugs.

Let's talk about Alcohol...

- Not using alcohol or drugs is the safest choice. However, if young people do decide to use alcohol and other drugs, there are a number of strategies that can help reduce their risk of harm.
- Alcohol is the most used drug at Leavers.
- Make sure you are aware of secondary supply laws.
- Alcohol reduces inhibitions, which can lead to doing things you would not do if you weren't affected by alcohol for example illicit drugs.

Alcohol

For some leavers, alcohol use has reportedly resulted in negative experiences:

- Blacking out.
- Being physically aggressive or having a heated argument.
- Accidents or injuries occur.
- Being hungover.
- Sexual assault.

Alcohol is the most common substance used in drink spiking.

- Don't accept drinks from other people, even if you know them.
- Don't leave drinks unattended.
- Know the signs and symptoms (similar to consuming a lot of alcohol, feeling sick or dizzy, feeling drunk after a small amount of alcohol, or passing out).
- If you think that you or a friend has had your drink spiked, ask someone you trust to help get you to a safe place and seek help urgently.

Alcohol and Other Drugs

While Leavers WA is an alcohol, drug, smoke and vape-free event, we know that some people might still use alcohol and other drugs.

Not using alcohol or other drugs is the safest option for young people attending Leavers and is the best way to ensure it is a fun and memorable experience. Young people are more vulnerable to the impacts associated with alcohol and other drug use, and each person can respond differently.

In the event young people do use alcohol and other drugs throughout the celebratory period, it is important they are aware of what they can do to reduce their risk of harm to themselves, and to reduce the impact on others. Simple advice for young people includes:

- Stay hydrated by drinking water.
- Remember to eat, and don't drink on an empty stomach.
- Protect yourself from the sun. Stay in the shade, wear sunscreen, protective clothing, sunglasses and a bucket hat.
- Don't mix alcohol with other drugs, including prescription medication – the effects can be unpredictable.
- Don't accept alcohol or other drugs from people you don't know.
- Have a buddy system and speak with your friends before Leavers about how you plan to look out for each other.
- Update the emergency information on your phone – it can quickly inform 1st responders to your medical conditions or emergency contacts.

Alcohol

- If you or your friends aren't feeling well, seek help from any of the support services provided.
- Never drive a vehicle (car, eRideable) if you have been drinking or using other drugs.
- Don't be a passenger in a vehicle if you think the driver has been drinking or using other drugs.
- Remember that alcohol and other drugs affect your ability to give consent and to judge if your partner has given appropriate consent as well.

Parents play an important role in keeping their teenagers safe at Leavers. A keyway to do this is by having open conversations with your teenager early about behaviour, alcohol and other drugs.

Talking to your teenager about alcohol and other drug use doesn't mean you are condoning its use – it means you want to make sure they have fun and enjoy themselves but would like to make sure that they're going to be safe.

For some tips about how to talk with your teenager about alcohol and other drugs before they head off to celebrate finishing Year 12, visit the Alcohol. Think Again website.

Drugs

What about illicit drugs?

You don't know what you're getting in relation to:

- The substance/s present – it may not be what is expected.
- Purity and Potency.

MDMA use can lead to:

- High body temperatures (heat stroke/hyperthermia).
- Brain swelling (from water intoxication and low salt levels).
- Seizures (from serotonin toxicity) .
- These conditions can lead to death unless they are recognised and treated early.

Not using MDMA is the safest option, however if your teenager does choose to use MDMA, they need to know about the potential harms, strategies for reducing risk, warning signs to seek help, and what to do when help is needed.

The Drug Aware website has a comprehensive list of harm reduction strategies specific to MDMA.

Polydrug use – mixing different drugs.

Two or more drugs are used at, or near, the same time. Mixing drugs is dangerous and the effect can be unpredictable.

Severe side-effects associated with taking higher doses of drugs are more likely to be experienced when mixing drugs. Especially when drugs of unknown content and purity are mixed:

- Stimulants with depressants can have dangerous masking effects. For example, combining alcohol and energy can make you feel less affected by the alcohol than you are.
- Stimulants with stimulants can result in toxicity, severe dehydration, dangerously high body temperature, heart attack, seizures, even death.
- Depressants with depressants can depress heart rate and breathing, leading to loss of consciousness, risk of choking on vomit and fluids and death.

Tips for parents

- Talk early about plans for Leavers.
- Be prepared – you don't need to be an expert but do your homework to inform yourself. The Alcohol Think Again and Drug Aware websites provide information for parents specific to Leavers.
- Discuss your expectations.
- Talk with other parents.
- Discuss your expectations. Empower your teenager with knowledge to make informed decisions, drug refusal strategies, and plans for keeping themselves and their friends safe.

Vaping

What vaping does to you

You are exposed to chemicals when you vape. These are some of the things you can experience if you vape:

- Irritated mouth and airways
- Persistent coughing
- Feeling out of breath
- Feeling nauseous and vomiting
- Headache and dizziness
- Seizures from inhaling too much nicotine or swallowing e-liquid
- Burns or injury if your vape overheats or explodes
- Becoming dependent on the nicotine in vapes
- Feeling more stressed or anxious
- Breathing problems and permanent lung damage
- Harming your brain development

Short- and long-term vaping is dangerous to your health.

What you need to know

The aerosol (mist or vapour) from vapes is made by heating up liquid chemicals that you breathe in.

Vapes are battery operated and can look like cigarettes, cigars, pipes, pens or USB drives.

The vape low down.

- Vaping affects your health now
- Vaping risks your future health

The Australian Government is changing the laws around vapes. From 1 October, people aged 18 years or over will be able to buy nicotine vapes from a pharmacy, with limited flavours and plain packaging.

It is still illegal for tobacconists, vape shops and convenience stores to sell any type of vape or vape product.

Illegal vapes:

- often do not list their real ingredients
- can still contain nicotine, even if the label says 'nicotine free'
- are made with untested/unsafe chemicals, like:
 - formaldehyde (used to preserve corpses in funeral homes)
 - acetone (ingredient in nail polish remover)
 - acetaldehyde (used to make plastics)
 - acrolein (found in weed killer)
 - heavy metals like nickel, tin and lead.

Resources and References

Leavers

[Leavers info for parents](#) | [Before they go](#)

[Leavers info for parents](#) | [Alcohol Think Again](#)

[Leavers - learn how to party smarter](#) | [Drug Aware](#)

[Vaping – the facts](#) | [Youth vaping](#) | [Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)

[Event Terms and Conditions](#) | [Leavers](#)

[St John First Responder App](#) | [Download now](#)

[First Aid for New Drivers](#)

[Road Safety Commission](#)

[5 Tips for Parents: Preparing Your Child for Schoolies](#) - [Red Frogs](#)

[Home](#) - [Royal Life Saving WA](#)

[WAAC](#)

alcoholthinkagain

Alcohol and the law for under 18's



~~Know the facts:~~

Secondary supply



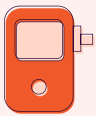
It is against the law to supply alcohol to anyone under 18 years old in a private setting without permission from their parent or guardian. This includes at home, at a friend's house or at a party.

Public places



It is against the law for anyone to drink in a public place, like on the street, in a park or at the beach. It is against the law for a person under 18 years old to possess alcohol in a public place, even if it is unopened.

Drinking alcohol and driving



The legal limit is 0.00% (zero) Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) for anyone on a learner's permit or P plates.

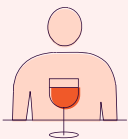
Alcohol delivery apps



Anyone receiving an alcohol delivery must be aged 18 or over and will be asked to show ID.

In February 2022, new laws came into effect including a prohibition on unattended same day deliveries and set hours for delivery.

Licensed Venues



It is against the law to sell or supply alcohol to anyone under the age of 18.

People under 18 years old can only enter or remain at licenced venues in specific circumstances depending on the license type (e.g. when accompanied by a parent or guardian).

It is also against the law for anyone under 18 to consume, possess or bring alcohol onto a licensed premises.

~~Did you know?~~

No amount of alcohol is safe for under 18s.

The National Health and Medical Research Council recommends that children and young people under 18 should not drink alcohol to reduce risk of injury and harms to health.

For more information and frequently asked questions, visit:

alcoholthinkagain.com.au/law



MDMA | the facts

What is MDMA?

MDMA (otherwise known as ecstasy, E, MD, pills or caps) stands for 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine. Drugs sold as MDMA will have varying levels of MDMA and the purity and strength (dose) will be unknown. It can often contain other ingredients (in addition to the MDMA) that can be toxic. MDMA is traditionally sold as pills but it is becoming more common in powder and capsule form (containing powder or crystals).

THE EFFECTS OF MDMA

The effect of drugs is a result of the interaction between the drug, person and the environment. The environment MDMA is used in can increase the risk of harm. For example, night clubs and festivals increases the risk of harm due to high temperatures, dancing for long periods of time, crowds and difficulty accessing water.

MDMA is a stimulant drug which means it speeds up the messaging in the brain and the central nervous system. It also has hallucinogenic and psychoactive effects. Short term effects include:

- Jaw tension, teeth grinding and dry mouth.
- Increased heart rate.
- Increased body temperature and sweating.
- Pupil dilation, headaches and muscles aches.
- Paranoia, irritability and anxiety.
- Nausea and vomiting.

Some effects will not appear initially and can be felt up to 32 hours after use. Look out for reduced appetite, disturbed sleep, feeling down, muscle aches and finding it hard to concentrate.

HOW MDMA CAUSES HARM

Purer MDMA does not mean safer MDMA. More deaths related to MDMA are a result of MDMA rather than contaminants.

MDMA can contribute to causing dangerously high body temperatures, brain swelling, and seizures. These conditions can cause death unless recognised and treated early.

HOW TO REDUCE THE RISK OF HARM

Choosing not to use drugs is always the safest option, and using drugs can never be safe.

If someone chooses to use MDMA, they should educate themselves about the risks. Here are some other things they should know:

1. Know about the drug. Do research, find out the basics such as how it might feel, dose, how long it takes for the effect to start, peak and finish.
2. Hydrate safely. Stick to 500ml (one small bottle or two cups) of water each hour. MDMA can cause your body to retain water which can have harmful effects, such as cells swelling and seizures.
3. Chill out. Especially if you're feeling hot, it will help to cool you down. MDMA alters the body's ability to regulate its temperature, increasing the risk of serious heat stroke.
4. Try a small amount and wait to feel the effects. Everyone should take a test-dose. If there is no feeling, don't take more, the drug probably isn't MDMA.
5. Have salty snacks or sports drinks.
6. Know the signs that help is needed (visit drugaware.com.au).
7. Stick with mates and make emergency plans; download the festival map, have a meeting point, make sure mobiles are charged, and know where on-site support services are.
8. Do not mix different kinds of drugs, including alcohol. This increases the chance of something going wrong and the effects are unpredictable.
9. Avoid alcohol, caffeine and energy drinks. This will dehydrate you and increase your risk of heat stroke.
10. Don't double drop.

IF YOU NEED HELP

If you're at a festival or event go to the nearest First Aid tent. If you aren't at a venue with a First Aid tent call an ambulance on triple zero (000) or go to the nearest Emergency Department. Remember the medics will help you, not call the police (unless they are threatened or there is a death). Even if you don't think it's serious, the most important thing is that you get help ASAP.

For more information visit www.drugaware.com.au or call a qualified alcohol and other drug counsellor at the Alcohol and Drug Support Line. You can call them 24/7 on (08) 9442 5000 or 1800 198 024 (country callers).