

Illicit drugs and the law

In Western Australia, it is illegal to possess, use, manufacture, cultivate or supply an illicit drug.

Penalties vary depending on the offence:

- **Possession offences: a maximum \$2000 fine and/or 2 years in prison**
- **Supply offences: a maximum \$100,000 fine and/or 25 years in prison**

Any person convicted of a drug offence will receive a criminal record and this can lead to difficulties in getting a job, credit or visas for overseas travel.

Police can issue a Cannabis Intervention Requirement (CIR) or a Drug Diversion Notice when small quantities of a drug are detected.

Cannabis Intervention Requirement Scheme

Possession and use of cannabis is still illegal, but if a person is found by police to be in possession of:

- 10 grams or less of cannabis (or cannabis seeds) for personal use and or;
- A smoking implement with traces of cannabis

The police officer may issue a Cannabis Intervention Requirement (CIR) to that person.

The CIR can be resolved by completing a Cannabis Intervention Session (CIS) within 28 days of being given the CIR by a police officer. Approved drug counselors conduct the session that aims to increase awareness of the laws and health effects relating to cannabis and enhance motivation to change by providing a non-judgemental environment in which open discussion will be encouraged.

If a person fails to attend the CIS then the alleged offence will be prosecuted by the officer who issued the CIR.

The Cannabis Intervention Requirement scheme applies to anyone aged 14 years and over.

The Cannabis Intervention Requirement scheme is legislated under the *Misuse of Drugs Act (/Site/Links/Misuse-of-Drugs-Act-1981)* and the *Young Offender's Act (/Site/Links/Young-Offenders-Act)*.

Diversion support programs

The Mental Health Commission provides a range of alcohol and other drug and mental health **diversion programs (/Site/Links/WA-Diversion-Program)**. These programs provide support opportunities for people apprehended by Police, appearing in courts, or who have an alcohol interlock condition on their driver's licence.

Related information

Alcohol - Department of Health

Information about alcohol-related health issues and Australian Government policy.

(/Site/Links/Alcohol-Department-of-Health)



Alcohol and Drug Foundation

One of Australia's leading bodies committed to preventing alcohol and other drug problems in communities around the nation.

(/Site/Links/Alcohol-and-Drug-Foundation)



Australian Drug Information Network

Information on alcohol, other drugs and mental health, with links to treatment services, research, statistics, guidelines and more.

(/Site/Links/Australian-Drug-Information-Network)



Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor website

Responsible for regulating and maintaining the integrity of lawful racing, gambling and liquor activities for Western Australians to participate in.

(/Site/Links/Department-of-Racing-Gaming-and-Liquor-website)



Alcohol.Think Again RSA resources page

A selection of posters has been developed for retailers.

(/Site/Links/Drug-and-Alcohol-Office)



Drug Aware

Drug Aware is a program that targets young people with messages about drug use that focus on the prevention of use and associated harm.

(/Site/Links/Drug-Aware)



Leavers WA

Leavers is an opportunity for Year 12 students from 2015 to celebrate the end of their schooling with their friends.

(/Site/Links/Leavers-WA)



National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund

Promotes quality evidence-based practice in drug law enforcement to prevent and reduce the harmful effects of licit and illicit drug use in Australian society.

(/Site/Links/National-Drug-Law-Enforcement-Research-Fund)



National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

A premier research institution in Sydney, Australia and is recognised internationally as a Research Centre of Excellence.

(/Site/Links/National-Drug-and-Alcohol-Research-Centre)



National Drug Research Institute

Conducts and disseminates high quality research that contributes to the primary prevention of harmful drug use and the reduction of drug related harm in Australia.



(/Site/Links/National-Drug-Research-Institute)

Road Safety Commission (RSC)

The RSC's purpose is to harness the knowledge, expertise and interest in the community of Western Australia to reduce trauma on our roads.



(/Site/Links/Road-Safety-Commission)

School Drug Education and Road Aware (SDERA)

SDERA helps children and young people make smarter choices by providing a resilience approach to alcohol and other drugs education.



(/Site/Links/School-Drug-Education-and-Road-Aware-SDERA)

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