

Methamphetamine and the law

In Western Australia, under the *Misuse of Drugs Act 1981*, it is illegal to use, possess, manufacture or supply methamphetamines.

Offences under this Act carry heavy fines and/or prison sentences.

Penalties vary depending on the offence:

Possession offences: up to \$2,000 in fines and/or two years in prison.

Supply offences: up to \$100,000 in fines and/or 25 years in prison.

A person convicted of a drug offence can receive a criminal record, which can lead to difficulties in getting a job, health insurance, credit or visas for overseas travel.

"One night I was scoring for some friends and the police caught me leaving the dealers house. I ended up with a criminal record. 'Coz of that it's way harder to get a job or travel overseas where I want.

Meth stole a part of my life."

What are the drug driving laws?

In Western Australia, it is against the law for anyone to drive with the presence of an illicit drug prescribed within the *Road Traffic Act 1974*, or under the influence of a drug.

Breaking the law carries penalties including disqualification from driving, fines and/or imprisonment.

Roadside drug testing is conducted in Western Australia. A roadside saliva screening test takes around five minutes. Where a positive result is obtained, the driver is required to undertake a second saliva test or provide a blood sample to confirm the presence of the prescribed drug. In most cases, the confirmatory saliva test takes around 30 minutes.

Methamphetamine gives drivers a false sense of confidence which may result in users taking greater risks and increase the risk of having a crash.

Methamphetamine, taken in combination with alcohol, can greatly impair driving performance.

