

## **Road Smart Interactive**

### **About the program**

Road Smart Interactive is a new, evidence based, highly interactive road safety education program that is free for all Victorian Secondary Schools.

Road Smart Interactive is designed to reflect contemporary, best-practice approaches to road safety education. It utilises the latest immersive technology to guide students through a series of experiences that will engage students in thinking about how they can be part of the solution to eliminating road trauma.

Road Smart Interactive features elements adapted from the award-winning Road to Zero Experience at Melbourne Museum.

### **Who is it for?**

Road Smart Interactive is targeted at Years 9, 10 and 11 and those undertaking the VCE Vocational Major. It is based in a school for an extended period, enabling meaningful engagement with students, school leaders, parents and guardians, and the broader school community.

### **How it works**

The program is fully self-contained and facilitated by skilled road safety educators. Our Road Smart Interactive team bring in a suite of digital experiences and set up in schools for up to 5 days. All schools need to do is provide a space for the experiences to be set up.

Class groups (up to 30 students) participate in the interactive program for approximately 60 minutes. We also invite school staff, teachers, and school council and/or parent groups to visit Road Smart Interactive while it is set up. This provides an opportunity for our road safety educators to facilitate conversations about the roles we can all play in contributing to a healthier and safer school community through improved road safety.

### **Coverage**

There are currently three teams which can visit schools across Victoria. This will be increasing to 4 at the start of 2024, to enable all schools in Victoria who wish to host the program to be able to do so.

The program is provided free to all schools in Victoria. A range of pre and post visit resources are provided to schools via the [roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au](https://roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au) website, to enable teachers to embed road safety content within the curriculum. Resources and guidelines are also provided to school leaders to enable them to improve road safety practice and approaches across the entire school community.

### **What is good practice road safety education?**

Road Smart Interactive has been designed as part of a suite of road safety education programs and resources offered by the Victorian Government that reflects good road safety education practice. Detailed reviews of relevant literature indicates that good practice is:

- Encouraging of participation and interaction
- Developmentally appropriate

- Part of the school curriculum
- Ongoing program not one-off
- Encouraging of a whole school approach
- Engages with parents and the wider community.

### **Road Safety Education in Victoria**

A summary of the road safety education programs offered by the Victorian Road Safety partner organisations is attached, and more details about Road Smart Interactive and road safety education can be found at [www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au](http://www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au).

## Attachment: Overview of School Based Road Safety Education in Victoria

### Pre-School Initiatives

A range of road safety education initiatives that promote road safety for children and infants aged 0 to 5 years is delivered through the Starting Out Safely Program. This Program was developed by early childhood and road safety experts and focuses on child restraint and pedestrian safety.

Initiative	Age Group	Program Type	Description	Status
<b>Professional development</b>	Early childhood educators	Professional development session and resources	Professional development sessions for educators working in early childhood, kindergarten and family day care settings covering good practice road safety education and policies.	Available now
<b>Thingle Toodle Sessions</b>	Pre-school and kindergarten children	In-centre education sessions	Free interactive sessions delivered within early childhood sessions providing developmentally appropriate education sessions. These sessions compliment the professional development provided to educators	Available now
<b>Child restraint and safe transport information</b>	Educators, nurses, social workers	Information sessions	Information sessions delivered to family day care educators, culturally and linguistically diverse parents, carers and support workers, child protection and aboriginal support workers and maternal and child health nurses.	Available now
<b>Community information</b>	Parents/carers	Information and advice	Road safety experts attend a range of community events and expos to speak directly with parents and carers about child restraint safety	Available now

For more information visit [www.childroadsafety.org.au](http://www.childroadsafety.org.au)

## Primary School Initiatives

A suite of school programs and resources are available or in development for primary schools. The main aim of road safety education for primary school children is to assist children to become safe and independent road users as pedestrians, cyclists or scooter users, as well as working to eliminate road trauma involving children by promoting the impact of other areas of the safe system – safe vehicles, safe roads and safe speeds.

Initiative	Age Group	Program Type	Description	Status
<b>Transition to Primary School</b>	Preps and parents	School/Parent Resource	Focus on new prep students and their family's road safety knowledge and skills as they begin school. The program includes resources to teachers, parents and students, incorporated into the school orientation programs.	In development – launch 2024
<b>bBike Ed</b>	Years 1 - 6	Teacher training and resources	Children learn about safe riding behaviours, road rules and riding in a shared environment. It uses practical lessons to ensure riders have the physical abilities to ride safely and older students to ride independently.	Available now
<b>Transition to Secondary School</b>	Year 6 and parents	Teacher and student resources	Program offers lesson plans, information and an optional excursion to help prepare Year 6 students for safe independent and safe travel to secondary school.	In development – launch 2024
<b>Teacher and school leader resources</b>	Prep to Year 6	Resources on new website	School and curriculum based resources are available on <a href="http://www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au">www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au</a>	Available now
<b>Safe routes to school?</b>	Whole of school community	Information and grant program	Grant program that encourages local councils and schools to improve road safety around pick up and drop off times, create safe walking, cycling and scooting routes to school to encourage active travel.	Available now
<b>Road to Zero School Holiday Programs</b>	Prep – Year 6 children and parents/carers	Interactive activities at Melbourne Museum	Free activities for school age children and their parents are provided every school holidays at Melbourne Museum. These are designed to engage and inform about relevant road safety topics such as helmet wearing, choosing a safe car and pedestrian and cycling safety	Available now

For more information visit [www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au](http://www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au)

## Secondary School Initiatives

A range of programs and resources are offered to all schools across Victoria which aim to inform and engage students, parents and teachers:

- about safe road use and how to keep themselves, their families and communities safe
- to feel empowered to advocate for improved road safety in and around their schools and local areas.

Initiative	Age Group	Program Type	Description	Status
<b>Transition to Secondary School</b>	Year 7 and parents	School/Parent Resource	Supporting Year 7 students and their family's road safety knowledge and skills before they start secondary school. Program resources will be developed for schools, parents and students to be incorporated into the school orientation sessions.	In development – available 2024
<b>Bike Ed</b>	Years 7 to 8	Teacher training and resources	Children learn about safe riding behaviours, road rules and riding in a shared environment. It uses practical lessons to ensure riders have the physical abilities to ride safely and older students to ride independently.	Available now
<b>Student Advocacy Program</b>	Years 8 to 9	Resources for students and schools	A student program that will encourage schools and students to address local road safety issues through the integration of a student voice. The program will outline how students can advocate for road safety action in their communities.	In development – available 2024
<b>Road Smart Interactive</b>	Years 9 to 11	Student incursion program	This in-school program will engage the whole school community in how to prevent road trauma, using a highly immersive pop-up exhibition that is set up in schools. The program is free and aims to visit every secondary school every second year.	Available now
<b>Road to Zero</b>	Years 9-10 & VCE	Curriculum based excursion	School groups visit the Road to Zero Education Complex at Melbourne Museum to undertake curriculum based immersive road safety experiences based on the health, science and VCE-M curriculum.	Available now
<b>Vehicle Safety Resource</b>	Year 12 and parents	Interactive digital resource	Initiative to engage students and families to utilise the 'how safe is your car' website and provide a range of resources designed for new probationary drivers and their parents.	In development – available 2024
<b>Teacher and School Leader Resources</b>	Years 7 to 12	Resources on new website	School and curriculum based resources available for education levels across a range of subject areas housed on <a href="http://www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au">www.roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au</a>	Available now