

Pedestrian safety on the Gold Coast

We are all pedestrians on the road network at some time or another and we are all particularly vulnerable to injury, because in the event of a crash with a vehicle, pedestrians have no protection.



Simple advice to stay safe when walking:

- Be aware of traffic and your surroundings.
- Never assume a vehicle driver or rider has seen you.

Gold Coast Road Safety Plan 2015–2020

Road safety is a community issue and the Gold Coast Road Safety Plan is a single planning document that sets out to:

- reduce crashes
- save lives
- prevent serious trauma.

It nominates actions and responsibilities for everyone who is a part of community protection including road authorities, transport user advocates, law enforcement and the general public.

For more information

P 1300 GOLDCOAST (1300 465 326)
W goldcoast.qld.gov.au/roadsafety

Crash data statistics are based on results presented in the Gold Coast Road Safety Plan 2015–2020. The crash data statistics are based on the Queensland Road Crash Database* using a 5 year reporting period between 2008 and 2012.

*State of Queensland, 2014. Crash Data from Queensland Roads (online). Available at data.qld.gov.au/dataset/crash-data-from-queensland-roads (Accessed 15/1/2014)



Pedestrian related crash statistics

5 year target

Reduce fatalities and serious injuries on the **Gold Coast** transport system by at least **30%**.

Age groups most likely at risk:

- 0-16 years **18%**
- 17-24 years **26%**
- 60+ **16%**

Every year an average of **60 pedestrians** are reported killed or hospitalised on the Gold Coast.

For pedestrians, speed is particularly lethal.

If hit by a vehicle travelling at:

- 30 km/hr** The survival rate is **95%**
- 50 km/hr** The survival rate is **45%**
- 60 km/hr** The survival rate is **10%**



8%

7%

14%

29% of all serious road trauma is among pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.



A significant proportion of injured pedestrians **aged 17-24** were under the influence of alcohol or drugs.



53%

of serious crashes involving a pedestrian occur within one kilometre of the **coastline.**



22%

of serious crashes involving a pedestrian are reported in **Surfers Paradise.**

Tips for walking safely

To keep safe as a pedestrian:

- Cross roads, railway and tram tracks at designated crossings such as pedestrian crossings, traffic signals or pedestrian refuges wherever possible.
- At railway level crossings, wait for the boomgate to rise and bells to stop before you cross because a second train may be approaching.
- Wearing headphones and using a mobile phone will reduce your awareness of what is happening around you.
- If you have been drinking alcohol, walk safely by staying on footpaths and cross at designated crossings.
- Always walk on footpaths or nature strips where possible.
- If there is no footpath or nature strip, walk so that you are facing oncoming traffic.
- Never walk along tram or railway tracks.
- If walking somewhere dark, carry a torch so you can still see the ground when confronted with headlight glare.
- Be very cautious of traffic near crests of hills and curves, if a vehicle is approaching make sure you have a safe escape available and be prepared to use it.
- Learn and obey the road rules.
- Never assume a driver has seen you.

To help you enjoy your walking experience:

- If you have been inactive for a while, start off slowly by taking short walks.
- Choose a walking shoe that firmly supports your foot.
- Wear light colours or bright clothing so you can be easily seen when walking particularly at dawn, dusk and in other low-light conditions.
- Avoid walking in the hottest part of the day.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Seek shade, wear a broad-brimmed hat, sunscreen, sunglasses and protective clothing.
- Keep left when using shared pathways, control your dog and leave room for cyclists and other people to overtake.
- Cross at marked crossings and obey the signals at intersections with traffic lights.

Walking with children

Walking with your children is a great way to spend quality time together. Walking allows children to develop a healthy exercise habit, independence and a sense of community.

To help your children be safe pedestrians:

- Be a model of safe behaviour for your kids.
- Talk with them about your actions and decisions as you walk.

Ask your children:

- Is this a safe place to cross?
- Is there somewhere better to cross, like a pedestrian crossing?
- Can we be seen by drivers?
- Where is the best place to walk?
- Which road should we take to get home?

Explore with children, so they have fun, experience different situations and learn about the area they live in.

Children have trouble judging distance and speed and can act unpredictably – a dangerous combination around traffic. In environments such as carparks, footpaths, road crossings, quiet and busy streets, make sure you are undistracted by your phone or other mobile device and aware of what is happening around you, and hold the hands of children in your care.

Give them more responsibility as they demonstrate more road sense. Get them to lead the way, they might take you places you've never been before.

Encourage your kids to walk with friends as they get older and become more independent.

Make sure your children know people who live along the route or places they can go to if they feel threatened by strangers or bullies. For information visit Neighbourhood Watch, police.qld.gov.au/programs/nhwq, or the Queensland Police Service police.qld.gov.au

Road rules for pedestrians

Queensland's road rules for pedestrians are contained within the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009*. To view the road rules for pedestrians, visit qld.gov.au/transport

The Queensland Department and Transport Main Roads offers a range of information for pedestrians and walking in Queensland. For further information, visit qld.gov.au/transport

