

Passenger behaviour

QFleet driver safety fact sheet

The presence of passengers in a vehicle and their behaviour can positively or negatively influence road safety.

The risk of a crash can be reduced by avoiding unnecessary or inappropriate interactions between drivers and their passengers.

Passengers can improve safety by:

- not distracting the driver through excessive conversation or by inappropriate behaviour
- performing tasks on behalf of the driver e.g. receiving and making mobile phone calls, navigating and reading maps
- locating and identifying landmarks and destination
- not encouraging the driver to partake in risky or anti-social behaviour
- not talking to the driver during times of high driver workload
- detecting imminent hazards and warning the driver
- helping young passengers to wear and adjust seat belts
- supervising children in the rear seats
- monitoring the drivers state of alertness
- questioning poor or risky driver behaviour.

Some further tips for passenger safety include:

- not placing feet on the dash of a vehicle, especially if the vehicle is equipped with a front passenger airbag
- not leaning against or sleeping in contact with the door or side pillar of the vehicle,

especially if the vehicle is equipped with passenger side airbags or side curtain airbags

- keeping all parts of the body inside the vehicle
- entering and exiting the vehicle via the kerb side
- storing luggage in the boot and not in the vehicle cabin, and especially not on the rear parcel shelf of a sedan
- wearing a seat belt at all times.



Driver distractions cause crashes

Children should be taught to understand that they can contribute to safer journeys by behaving responsibly and minimising distracting behaviour. If young passengers are in the vehicle:

- Discourage behaviours such as removing restraints, fighting, playing loud music or throwing objects around.
- If there is a problem with a child while you are driving - stop the car in a safe place before resolving the problem. Avoid trying to resolve the problem while driving.
- Allow additional time when embarking on longer trips with children to include time for rests breaks, eating and play activities.

Fact

The driver of a vehicle is responsible for ensuring that all passengers, regardless of age, are wearing a properly fastened and adjusted seatbelt. Penalties apply for non-compliance.

Source: Department of Transport and Main Roads, New and Amended Road Rules, 2009

Restraining Children

New child restraint laws were introduced to take effect in Queensland from 11 March 2010. These laws prohibit young children from being seated in the front seats of a vehicle with two or more rows of seats.

- A child under four years of age cannot sit in the front seat of a vehicle that has more than one row of seats, even if the child is three years of age and large enough to sit in a booster seat
- A child aged between four and seven years of age cannot sit in the front seat of a vehicle that has more than one row of seats, unless all the other seats are occupied by children below seven years of age.
- It is safer for children under 12 years of age to travel in the back seat, particularly if the vehicle is fitted with a passenger front airbag

- Baby capsules should only be fitted to the rear seating positions; utilities are an exception

If the vehicle has one row of seats only, e.g. a utility:

- A child of any age can sit in the front seat if the vehicle has only one row of seats provided they are properly restrained. If the vehicle has a passenger airbag fitted, a rear facing child restraint should not be used.

Note: It is possible to temporarily disable the front passenger airbag on some utilities. Check the owner's handbook for further information.

Further information about child restraint laws and tips for the correct use of child restraints can be found at Department of Transport and Main Roads' [website](#).



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