



## “Staying Safe in Perth”

*Perth is famous for being a safe and friendly city however like any other city in the world you need to take care when going about your day to day life. We have written this document to give our clients important information and common sense advice on living safely in Perth.*

### Students as Pedestrians

- ❖ Don't walk alone after dark away from main, well lit streets.
- ❖ Don't forget that cars drive **on the left** in Australia – take special care when crossing busy streets to look both ways.
- ❖ Cars tend to travel faster in Perth than you may be used to – it is better to wait for a definite break in the traffic than to run between vehicles.
- ❖ Never walk on the road if there is a footpath. If there isn't a footpath , then walk on the side of the road close to the curb and walk **facing oncoming traffic**.
- ❖ Never get out of a car and walk on the freeway.
- ❖ It is not advisable to hitchhike anywhere in Western Australia.

### Students as Drivers

- ❖ If you rent a car remember the person who has signed the form as **the registered driver must drive the car at all times**. If another person takes over the driving and you have an accident, then your insurance will be null and void.
- ❖ Remember it is **compulsory to wear seat belts** at all times in Australia, even passengers in the back seat must wear seat belts.
- ❖ Roads in the country areas of Western Australia are very dangerous. Loose gravel on the side of the road, tricky bends in the road, animals loose on the road, road trains traveling fast are all hazardous.
- ❖ If you travel in the country make sure you tell someone where you are going and what time you intend to arrive there.
- ❖ If you break down in a remote location **stay with the car** – don't try to walk for help.
- ❖ Always carry extra water when you travel into remote locations.
- ❖ Take care when over taking on country roads.
- ❖ **Never take a rented vehicle off road** – your insurance will be null and void if you break down or have an accident.
- ❖ **Don't drink and drive** – not only is it dangerous but the fine if you get caught is very expensive. The legal limit is a blood alcohol reading of 0.05, which is about two glasses of wine or beer for the average person.

### Students As Cyclists

- ❖ When cycling a **protective helmet** must be worn at all times, there is a heavy fine for breaking this law.





- ❖ Bicycles ridden at night should be equipped with lights, reflectors and the rider should wear light coloured clothing.
- ❖ Keep to bicycles paths whenever possible.
- ❖ Do not weave in and around traffic when on a bicycle, this is a very dangerous practice.
- ❖ Never ride a bicycle on the freeways.

### **Students Enjoying the Water**

- When swimming at our beaches **make sure you swim between the red and yellow flags** as the currents beneath the water are very strong. If you get caught in a current **do not try to swim against it**. Swim with the current and try to swim generally parallel with the shoreline.
- Always try to choose beaches where lifesavers are present and that if you get into trouble in the water you should try to raise one arm - this is a sign to lifesavers that you need assistance
- Never dive into a swimming pool or lagoon until you check the depth of the water.
- Be careful when fishing from rocks, sudden freak waves can sweep you off a rock very easily. Many people have been drowned fishing from rocks in relatively calm water when a freak wave washes them back into the sea.

### **Students Enjoying the Outdoors**

- ❖ When going to parks or the beach **never leave your car unlocked or any valuables in an obvious position**.
- ❖ Always wear a strong sun block cream (Factor 30+) when you spend extended periods of time outdoors.
- ❖ Carry an insect repellent such as RID when enjoying a walk in the bush or spending time outdoors after dark.
- ❖ If you are going bush walking always tell someone where you are going and what time you intend to return.
- ❖ Never drop a lighted cigarette anywhere on the ground in Western Australia.
- ❖ Check local fire restrictions before lighting barbecues in parks or the countryside.
- ❖ Make sure you have a fishing licence if you are going to fish for shell fish of any kind. Check the Fisheries Department to make sure that you are not catching shellfish such as abalone out of season – the fine for doing this is very high.
- ❖ Never carry large sums of money with you or take your money out in a public place.

Please note that this information is provided as a guide only and that ETI and WAPETIA are not liable for any incident that should occur during the student's stay in Australia.

