



INQUIRY INTO THE TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (ROAD SAFETY & OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT BILL 2019

SUBMISSION BY QUEENSLAND TRAFFIC OFFENDERS PROGRAM (QTOP)

The Queensland Traffic Offenders Program (QTOP) was inceptioned in 2006 on the Gold Coast and commenced operations in Brisbane in 2012.

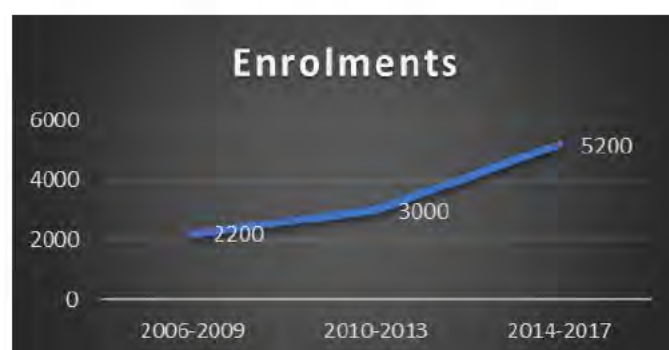
QTOP is a Court diversion program/road safety education program designed to protect the community from road trauma offers the following:

- Intervention / rehabilitation to traffic offenders charged with drink / drug driving, speeding, inattention / mobiles, dangerous driving or any traffic offence.
- Qualified, Professional, experienced presenters to deliver a road safety topic to attendees weekly at lectures Gold Coast, Brisbane and ONLINE.

Our Qualified Professional Presenters consist of Lawyers, Emergency personnel, Qualified Drug and Alcohol counsellors, Victims and Driver safety educators.

In Queensland, QTOP is the only recognised education / rehabilitation program for traffic offenders in Queensland. QTOP demonstrates reality, including shock and impact methods to encourage drivers to reform their dangerous habits, and therefore reduce their risk of reoffending. QTOP reminds offenders it is not only them who is affected by the trauma associated in one road traffic crash.

From our own research, with over 10,000 people enrolled to date, QTOP maintains a recidivism rate of less than 2%. A full database of attendees is retained. This low recidivism rate demonstrates our education is effective. Currently attendees range from ages 14 to 83.



All clients are required to complete paperwork to demonstrate to the Court they have educated/rehabilitated themselves after the offence. Paperwork is submitted to the Magistrate on their plea. Magistrates read firsthand what they have learnt and can be confident the offender has addressed their offending behaviour through education/rehabilitation to deter reoffending.

In reports of crash statistics for 2018, it is illustrated that speed, alcohol/drugs remain the biggest contributors to traffic fatalities. State Government research demonstrates that a core group of people charged with road offences are recidivists. The introduction of a mandated traffic offenders program can only help to educate /rehabilitate these recidivists.

In 2017, the Under the Limit (UTL) program which was for repeat drink drivers closed after some 10 years of operation. QTOP worked closely with UTL over the years. We note that the UTL was ordered on Probation & Parole Orders for repeat drink drivers where the cost varied from \$600-\$800 over the years. Due to the high cost, clients were unable to afford the fees, clients were breached by Corrective Services, returned to Court and resentenced. In other cases, UTL was removed and QTOP replaced. QTOP was completed and collateral checks were conducted from Corrective Services. Officers from Corrective Services all over Queensland conduct collateral checks daily on clients attending QTOP. Since the closure of UTL in August 2017, QTOP is now being ordered on Probation and Parole Orders for repeat drink drivers.

Studies demonstrate quick fix programs of 2-3 hours or 1-day programs do not assist in changing the mindset of offenders. Recently New South Wales legislation was amended to reflect that 1-day programs are no longer accepted in New South Wales Courts. All programs are extended in length for this same reason. Offenders need to absorb the information delivered to assist in behavioural change.

Over the years, QTOP has had many instances of fraudulent cases of attendees paying others to attend on their behalf. In the early days of our program, QTOP instigated strict identification procedures with both face to face and online to alleviate this issue.

There is an urgent need for road safety education programs in high schools. We consistently deal with young drivers in the age group of 18-25 who are charged with traffic offences. This age bracket of offenders is 35% of our attendees. Road safety education together with driving hours should be mandatory as part of licensing for Learners/PPlaters. This education will assist in the lowering the rate of offending in this age bracket. Over the years, we have welcomed young drivers to complete our program. Parents have urged them to complete our program before committing offences.

Over the years, QTOP has established very strong strategic partnerships and links to the judicial system ie.

- Magistrates who refer offenders to the program
- Lawyers who recommend their clients to participate; and
- Government Agencies who refer to QTOP being a registered stakeholder.

QTOP has established clinical pathways for offenders with alcohol and drugs, or other issues, that need to be addressed through professionals. Daily we are referring clients for intervention.

We believe we have designed the program to:

- alleviate fatalities on our roads
- educate recidivists on the consequences of reoffending
- educate our young drivers to make the right choices while driving, and
- ultimately save lives on our Queensland roads.

In 2017, due to the requests and interest from jurisdictions throughout Queensland, QTOP developed an online version of the program which has been described as “world leading”.

In 2018, QTOP was awarded an Australian Road Safety Award for being an innovative program in road safety. QTOP was honoured to receive this award considering all the road safety programs around Australia. QTOP is the only traffic offenders program in Australia to win this Award. QTOP is currently educating attendees in Queensland, Australia and Worldwide.

Due to the success of our online program, QTOP has now received interest from Europe and America on the development of our program to reflect their traffic laws. Our software allows for all attendees to be monitored on their attendance and reports issued to the Court.

With the interest from around Australia for our online program, in 2018, we developed the Australian Traffic Offenders Program (ATOP) similar to QTOP. ATOP currently has attendees from Tasmania, Norfolk Island and Western Australia attending.

QTOP covers all traffic offences and currently has attendees attending for the following:

- Drink Driving – ranging from 0.05 to 0.48 readings;
- Drug Driving;
- Unlicensed;
- Disqualified Driving;
- New Drivers as a road safety education program;
- Refresher Course;
- Corporate entities;
- Youth Justice Offenders;
- Work Licence Applications – Magistrate Ordered or Lawyer Referred
- Special Hardship Order Applications – Either ordered from the Magistrate/Qld Transport or Lawyer referred;

CONCLUSION

- ◆ QTOP is supportive of the recent proposals for a mandated traffic offender program in Queensland.
- ◆ As an already established program, QTOP can assist in the delivery of the mandated program with our online program. Our online program will allow offenders in all jurisdictions of Queensland to attend;
- ◆ QTOP would be willing to run as a pilot program to determine the success of having a mandated program in Queensland.
- ◆ QTOP would welcome further discussions with Queensland Transport to roll out a mandated program to alleviate road trauma in our communities.
- ◆ We note the suggestion for first time offenders attend a 1-hour program – QTOP suggests they attend the full program to deter reoffending. This can only alleviate a recidivist reoffending and being responsible for another fatality on our roads. As mentioned, statistics demonstrate, a core percentage of drivers are recidivists.
- ◆ QTOP is a Court Diversion Program and can be assessed as a Brief Intervention Program or an in-depth drink driving program for repeat offenders.
- ◆ QTOP is willing to adapt our program to curriculum recommendations should this be required. However, all Presenters are Qualified Professionals who educate on all aspects of road safety/choices/law/trauma studies etc.
- ◆ QTOP has worked closely over the years with CARRSQ to assist in their studies on offenders and has allowed CARRSQ to personally attend and interview our clients.
- ◆ QTOP ensures the program meets both national and international best practice standards and follow the CARRS-Q guidelines.
- ◆ QTOP ensures all participants complete feedback forms. These are reviewed to ensure that a best practice quality assured program is in place. QTOP understands what elements of the program influences the participants most.
- ◆ QTOP supports the interlock program for repeat offenders, however we are surprised at the number of clients who are not aware of this interlock program. The interlock program needs to be advertised widely to our community. Our clients are surprised at the cost of this program and we have had many clients opt out of the program due to the expense.
- ◆ QTOP has had many discussions with Magistrates over the years who have enquired as to why QTOP is not noted Under Section 82 of the TRANSPORT OPERATIONS (ROAD USE MANAGEMENT) ACT 1995 - SECT 82



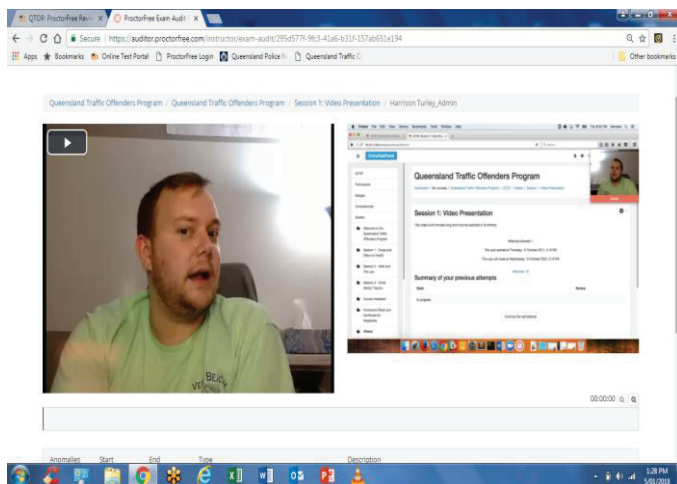
QUEENSLAND TRAFFIC OFFENDERS PROGRAM (QTOP) ONLINE PROGRAM

WORLD LEADING PROGRAM – ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD

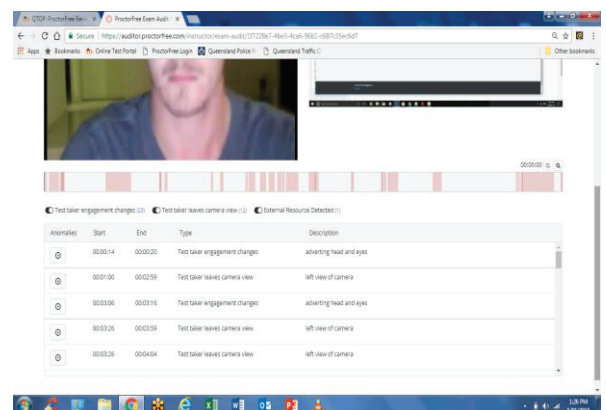
Our Australian Award Winning successful QTOP program is **NOW ONLINE** for everyone, Queensland, Australia and Worldwide. We are very excited with the expansion of our QTOP program.

It is a world leading program developed to educate offenders on road safety. We are currently in discussions with the United States of America, and European stakeholders who are interested in partnering with QTOP since the development of our program.

Our Online QTOP program allows attendees to be fully monitored to confirm attendance to the Courts. Magistrates receive a report of any anomalies including using their phone, leaving the camera, falling asleep, reading emails or opening another browser. Due to the success of QTOP, it is now great to see parents urging their new drivers to receive road safety education before they commit an offence. The interest from the Corporate sector has also been overwhelming for our Online program.



ATTENDEES ARE FULLY MONITORED



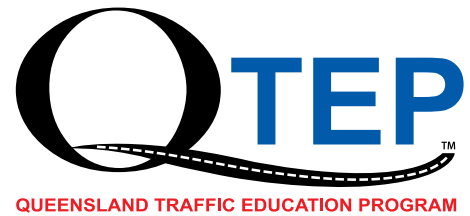
**REPORT IS ISSUED TO OUR OFFICE
OF ATTENDANCE OR ANOMALIES**



QTOP www.qtop.com.au
PH: 0401 344 982



WINNER
Australian Road Safety Awards



QUEENSLAND TRAFFIC OFFENDERS (QTOP)

WINS INNOVATION AWARD AT AUSTRALIAN ROAD SAFETY AWARDS - MELBOURNE 2018

As the Facilitator of our program for over 12 years, I was absolutely honoured to receive this Innovation Award at the Australian Road Safety Awards in Melbourne in March - QTOP is now the recipient of many Multi National Awards.

We know by delivering our QTOP program weekly at two venues for 49 weeks of the year, and now ONLINE is changing the mindset of traffic offenders. We educate drivers on making the right choices while driving to help alleviate trauma in our community.

QTOP is now recognised on a National and State level - what a huge achievement!

Daily QTOP educates offenders, new drivers, employees and drivers as a refresher course.

Thank you for your continued referrals and support to help save lives on our roads.

Lara Hickling



QUEENSLAND TRAFFIC OFFENDERS - QTOP / QUEENSLAND TRAFFIC EDUCATION PROGRAM - QTEP NAMED PLATINUM SPONSOR - GOLD COAST RUGBY LEAGUE FOR 2018 SEASON

Within our sponsorship package, QTOP delivers to players, committee members and families road safety education seminars from Qualified Professional presenters on road safety and drug & alcohol issues in our community. QTOP believes that bringing awareness to the league community could help alleviate trauma in our community.



With statistics demonstrating our young continue to be our highest fatalities on our roads, we need to educate our young on the consequences from the wrong choices they make while driving. We are continually amazed at the reactions from our young drivers on how much they have enjoyed our QTOP program. Constant comments are expressed they wished the information was delivered before they received their licence. This is a positive step forward for QTOP in giving back to the community.





QUEENSLAND TRAFFIC OFFENDERS (QTOP) CENTRE FOR ACCIDENT, RESEARCH & ROAD SAFETY - CARRSQ

QTOP is working closely with CARRSQ on two (2) studies - Young Drivers & Attitudes and Women/Drink Driving. QTOP was able to recruit attendees who were willing to discuss their decision making behind offending including drink driving, speeding, hooning or any traffic offending.



Dr Cassandra Gauld, Lara Hickling,
Associate Professor Kerry Armstrong





QUEENSLAND TRAFFIC OFFENDERS (QTOP) YOUTH JUSTICE DEPARTMENT QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

QTOP is working closely with the Youth Justice Department to educate our young offenders on traffic offending. QTOP has been donating our program to young offenders to deter them from reoffending in the future. We explain the consequences of continually reoffending, the effect convictions can have on their records for their future employment, careers, lifestyle etc. The response has been positive from the young offenders who have attended to date. A couple of offenders have expressed their interest in talking at our program on their experiences in Juvenile Detention. This is such a positive step in rehabilitation for these young offenders.

Youth Justice in Queensland.

Brought to you by the **Queensland Government**





PARENTS WITH P' PLATERS & OVER 50's REFRESHER COURSE



Busy and engaged Guests at our Parents & P Platers Program last Thursday evening. Thanks for your company, we hope you learnt heaps! A huge thank you to our highly skilled Presenters & Technicians who are passionate about Road and Motoring Safety education within our Community. Thank you for your time, energy and commitment to this Safety initiative:
Rightway Driving School Queensland Traffic Offenders Program Queensland Police Service Queensland Fire and Emergency Services - QFES #ParentsandPPlaters #MotoringSafety

35

7 comments 4 shares

Like

Comment

Share





TESTIMONIALS RECEIVED

- ❖ I really don't know where to start. This course has had a profound effect on me. To be honest, I didn't really know what it would entail and I was very apprehensive as to what it could reveal to me that I didn't already know. Although I did not have any intention of getting behind the wheel of a vehicle under the influence, I can certainly see the dire consequences that can and do occur even the next day. This presentation/program is of paramount importance. It needs to be viewed by every individual who holds a license. I cannot state how much this program needs to be shown to our youth especially being witness to the overwhelming statistics of our road toll.
Janeen
- ❖ "QTOP has really opened up my eyes as to the responsibilities and privileges that I have in holding a Drivers Licence. It has made me aware of how my actions can not only affect me but have a ripple effect amongst victims, Emergency Services Personnel, family, friends and even whole communities. Having a Drivers Licence is a privilege and offers me freedom and the ability to live my life and go to work. It is something that I perhaps had taken for granted and feeling invincible I lost sight of how important it is to respect that privilege but also the laws which are set out to protect us all. In closing, I thoroughly enjoyed the program and will pay for my nieces to watch it for their benefit and everyone else. I have certainly seen the error of my ways and can confidently state that I will never make the same mistake again." **Alex**
- ❖ "This course has definitely opened my eyes and refreshed my memory to all the negative aspects of driving while under the influence of alcohol and drugs. I am disappointed in myself realising there are safer options when socialising. I found the program motivated me to want to do the right thing, within the community, for my wife and family. I understand very clearly what the consequences of my actions and complete error in judgment, may have been. I think it's a program all drivers should see or be aware of, particularly young drivers. Unlike myself, they then are educated early in their driving career and hopefully instils safer driving for everyone. I wish I had the opportunity to see the presentation earlier as I believe it may have stopped me from putting myself in this situation. In the future, being a mentor to young workers in the building trade, I hope to be able to educate them on the things I have learnt during the course to avoid negative outcomes while driving". **Warren**



TESTIMONIALS RECEIVED

- ❖ "Overall, I found this course very refreshing and educational on the topic of road safety. It has given excellent explanations of a variety of topics when looking at road safety in general, trauma to communities and aspects of the law which I now accept, and respect are enforced solely to prevent much more severe outcomes through punishment to those offending. Until I had been charged with low-range drink driving, I did not even know what the penalties involved were and had not considered how they would affect me or my job or my family and friends. In a way I feel like learning this lesson earlier in my life has been beneficial, as I am only 26, and if faced with a choice again, I will with absolute certainty, not take any risk, not only with my own life but with the lives of innocents in my community. I wish this course, or a similar idea had been included as part of my high school program. Thank you for providing this opportunity to re-educate myself and understand the importance road safety plays in our overall wellness as a community." **Lawson**
- ❖ "Program was excellent, this whole program changed my way of thinking, it was so valuable and helpful. Thank you to all the presenters. Highly recommend this program" **Nancy**
- ❖ "I thought I was a good driver until I attended this program. It made me aware of a lot of things I either forgot or took for granted which will definitely make me a better driver in the future. I wouldn't change a thing in this program." **Andrew**
- ❖ This road safety program made a huge impact on me and I am sure everyone else here. It made me examine myself, my attitude, my life. I would recommend this program to everyone that has a licence, young or old. I am leaving this program a better person than when I first walked in. Thank you." **David**
- ❖ "I am so grateful for the Queensland Traffic Offenders Program as I have learnt so much and have now become so aware of the serious consequences that can occur due to negligence when you choose to operate a vehicle. I am remorseful for the erratic decision I made under the influence of alcohol and fuelled by emotion that I allowed to take over. I am so grateful that I was fortunate that I did not cause injury or death to myself or anyone else. If this had of happened I would not be able to live with myself to have caused that much pain and sorrow to others. This program has made me realise that we are not invincible and that operating a vehicle is a serious responsibility not only for yourself but to others on the road. I have learnt what the effects of alcohol can cause whilst driving and it scares me to think that I stupidly put myself in danger and others. I have taken away from this program that if you choose to drink don't drive and if you drive don't drink, it is not worth the risk you put yourself and others in when you choose to drink drive, I have learnt a bit on how to control my emotions so again you do not drive under these conditions. This program has definitely taught me all aspects of driving which is about your Attitude when you choose to drive." **Alana**



TESTIMONIALS RECEIVED

- ❖ "I have found the QTOP to be a very valuable educational resource for me. I am very out of date with my understanding of driver safety practices such as the no drink = no driving recommendation. I have been operating off very outdated recommendations such as one drink per hour and waiting longer before entering a car. I do not choose to watch the news and prefer to read the paper. This has reduced the exposure I have to viewing and hearing about car crashes, statistics or factors associated with car crashes. I feel much more empowered and knowledgeable about safe driving practices and clearer about the weight of responsibility I carry as a driver. Being an older driver, I think it is important to have refresher courses and reminders every few years to keep us up to date and focused. Thank you for creating this program." **Joanne**
- ❖ "After completing the QTOP course I have learnt how the effects of drugs and alcohol while operating a car can have life changing consequences for both myself and those around me. After listening to four different perspectives and completing the work books I will never forget some of the stories I've heard and the important lessons I've learnt. After undergoing this program, I feel as though I look at the road differently and have a new-found awareness of just how important it is not only for myself but others around me to be aware and vigilant while driving. This course has firmly cemented the importance of good decision making and has certainly opened my eyes to all the horrific incidents that can happen on our roads." **Elizabeth**
- ❖ I have taken a lot out of this course, and have come to understand how dangerous it is to drink and drive even at a low range, I realise now that the cost, risk of life is not worth even having a couple of beers and driving. If I was to be killed or seriously injured and I had to miss out on being a parent to my son, miss out on all the things that I love to do I would be devastated cause I know I have the best years ahead of me. If I was to kill or seriously injure another person I could not live with myself. It has shown me that my attitude was all wrong and clearly was making the wrong choices. There really are no excuses. I don't need to take my car, if I choose to drink then there is plenty of safe options of transport to get places. The amount of people that this affects is not fair and I don't want to be the cause of that." **Isaac**



WINNER
Australian Road Safety Awards

