

# VEHICLES AS A WORKPLACE

Info Sheet



Info Sheet

## Greyfleet

When vehicles are used for work purposes (either onsite or in road traffic), they become a workplace under work health and safety (WHS) legislation, requiring the risks associated with these vehicles to be managed.

Around 20% of all kilometres travelled by passenger vehicles is for business purposes, excluding travel to and from work.<sup>1</sup> Vehicle use in road traffic is the most significant contributor to work-related traumatic injury in Australia, particularly fatalities.

- Vehicle collisions were the cause of 32% of Australian worker fatalities and 61% of Australian bystander fatalities in 2016-17<sup>2</sup>
- Vehicle incidents were 2.5% of all serious injury claims in Australia in 2016-17<sup>3</sup>
- Around one quarter of all fatal road crashes involve a vehicle being used for business, the majority of these involving a car or light truck.<sup>4</sup>

Greyfleet is a term used for any vehicle used for work-related purposes which is not directly provided for by the organisation that employs the driver. Greyfleet includes personal vehicles, client vehicles, and all forms of leases, whether or not workers are reimbursed for expenses. WHS law applies to all Greyfleet vehicles.

### Issues

Effectively managing WHS risks from Greyfleet is based on the same principles as that of traditional fleet management. However, use of Greyfleet requires greater attention to risk management processes and procedures. As some issues are outside of the direct control of the business.

Some of the particular issues requiring attention when developing policies and procedures for Greyfleet are:

- The journey plan
- The type of vehicles which may or may not be used, such as motorcycles
- The fitness for purpose of vehicle for the type of road and conditions
- The age and original ANCAP safety rating of the vehicle

<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics: 9208.0 - Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia 12 months to 30 June 2018

<sup>2</sup> Safe Work Australia: Work-related Traumatic Injury Fatalities, Australia 2017

<sup>3</sup> Safe Work Australia Comparative performance monitoring report 20<sup>th</sup> edition

<sup>4</sup> Transport for New South Wales (2018), Road Safety and Your Work: A Guide for Employers



Government of South Australia  
SafeWork SA



- The currency and coverage of vehicle insurance, registration
- Characteristics of the worker/employee travelling in the vehicles.

## Hazards, Risks and Management

Refer to the separate infosheet relating to addressing WHS hazards, risks and management associated with use of vehicles in road traffic. Refer also to the separate infosheet on key considerations for Greyfleet.

If you have considered all hazards, risks and management matters, and the only option available is Greyfleet, you need to further consider ensuring:

- The same minimum policies apply to all aspects of Greyfleet use
- The driver is appropriately licensed and unimpaired
- Ensuring the vehicle is suitable, roadworthy, registered and insured
- The journey is safely planned, with sufficient rest breaks and contingencies.

**Publishing information** | This info sheet is part of the *Vehicles as a Workplace* guidance downloadable from the Work Health and Safety Queensland website [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/transport](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/transport).

**Creative Commons** | This copyright work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 Australia licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit [creativecommons.org/licenses](http://creativecommons.org/licenses). In essence, you are free to copy, communicate and adapt the work for non-commercial purposes, as long as you attribute the work to Austroads and abide by the other licence terms.