

NSW Alcohol Interlock Program

Sober Driver Program

What is the Sober Driver Program?

The Sober Driver Program is a therapeutic group program that specialises in changing the attitudes and behaviours of drink drive offenders.

The Sober Driver Program will help you:

- Understand the consequences of drink driving to yourself and others
- Understand the events and decisions that led to your offence
- Create and use strategies to prevent you from offending again
- Develop skills and positive attitudes for safe driving.

Who is required to complete the Sober Driver Program?

You are required to complete the Sober Driver Program if you have been convicted of a drink driving offence and the Court has given you an interlock exemption order.

What is an interlock exemption order?

An interlock exemption order means you are exempt from the requirement to participate in the Alcohol Interlock Program.

Instead, you will be required to complete:

- a licence disqualification period; and
- the Sober Driver Program, at your cost, before you can reapply for your licence at a Service NSW centre.

How long is the program?

The program is delivered as one full day session (six hours) per week for three consecutive weeks. It includes 18 hours of group work plus two hours of take home tasks, totalling 20 hours.

Each of the three program days must be attended in sequence to successfully complete the program.



NSW Alcohol Interlock Program

How do I register for the program?

If you have an exemption order, and do not have a court supervisory order, you must register for the **Sober Driver Program** via the **Managed Training Service (MTS) website**.

On the website, you will need to provide the following information:

- Name
- Contact details
- Postcode
- Customer Number (recorded on your letter from Roads and Maritime)
- Disqualification end date (recorded on your letter from Roads and Maritime).

What do I do if I have a court supervisory order as well as an interlock exemption order?

If you have an exemption order and you also have a court supervisory order, you can complete the program through Corrective Services NSW. Contact your local Community Corrections Office as soon as you receive your letter from Roads and Maritime notifying you of your requirement to complete the Sober Driver Program.

What happens after I register for the program on the MTS website?

Once you have registered online, you will be placed on a waiting list. MTS will email you to advise you of the dates and location of the next available program closest to you.

To confirm your place in the program, you must pay the full program fee. A link to the payment website will be provided in the email you receive from MTS.

If you do not enrol in that program, you will be placed back on the waiting list. Unfortunately MTS cannot guarantee when the next available program will be.

How much does the program cost?

The program costs \$700 which covers the full three days. You will also need to organise your own transport and meals as required.

Is financial assistance available?

Financial assistance may be available from Roads and Maritime if you are experiencing severe financial hardship. Financial assistance covers the full program fee of \$700 and is paid directly to the Sober Driver Program Provider.

For more information on applying for severe financial hardship assistance, contact Service NSW on **13 77 88**. You will be referred to an assessment agency that will assess your financial situation and eligibility for assistance. Roads and Maritime will advise you in writing about the outcome of your application. The assessment is valid for a period of three months at a time.

NSW Alcohol Interlock Program

What do I need to bring on the day?

On each program day, you will need to bring:

- Your letter from Roads and Maritime advising you of your requirement to complete the Sober Driver Program
- Photo identification such as a drivers licence, proof of age card or passport
- Pen
- Lunch

Your letter and photo ID must be presented to the facilitator at the start of each day.

What happens if I can't attend the program I have enrolled in?

If you're unable to attend the program you are enrolled in, you must notify MTS at least 10 days before the first day of the program to receive a refund.

You will be placed back onto the waiting list for the next available program. When you are notified of the next available program, you will be required to pay the full fee to confirm your place in the program.

Refunds will not be issued for any cancellations made less than 10 days before the start of the program, except where a medical certificate is provided to MTS or in exceptional circumstances assessed as reasonable on a case-by-case basis.

What happens if I miss a program day?

You must attend all three days of the program you are enrolled in to complete the Sober Driver Program.

If you fail to attend any part of the program, you will be removed from the program and placed back onto the waiting list.

You will be required to:

- Re-enrol in the next available program
- Pay the full program fee
- Start the new program from the beginning (even if you have already attended some of the program previously)

Will I be eligible for a refund if I miss a program day?

A refund will only be considered where a medical certificate is provided to MTS or in exceptional circumstances assessed as reasonable on a case-by-case basis.

If you have been approved for financial assistance, and you don't have a valid reason for not completing the program you are enrolled in, you won't be eligible for financial assistance a second time and you will be required to pay the full fee for the next program you enrol in.

NSW Alcohol Interlock Program

What happens once I have completed the program?

If you successfully complete the Sober Driver Program, your program facilitator will give you a Roads and Maritime Certificate of Completion at the end of the third day. You will need to present this certificate at a Service NSW centre as proof of completion of the Sober Driver Program.

More information

For more information on completing the Sober Driver Program through MTS, telephone **1300 361 787** or email mts@chandlermacleod.com

For general information about the Mandatory Alcohol Interlock Program, visit the Roads and Maritime website at rms.nsw.gov.au

Change of circumstances

If you have an exemption order and experience a change of circumstances, you may choose to enter the interlock program at a later date. This does not require you to go back to Court. You should contact Service NSW on **13 77 88** or visit a Service NSW Centre if you would like to explore this option.