

Western Australia Police Service – Bike Education



A need for change

Presented by:

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History of Bike Ed in Western Australia:

The Western Australia Police Service through the Road safety Section Bike Ed Unit delivers a derivative of the National Bicycle Education Program state wide in the school environment.

Formalised Bike Education commenced in Western Australia in the early 1980's and at that time, was conducted by the National Safety Council.

In the early 1990's, the National Safety Council Western Australia Closed down and the existing Bicycle Education programs were transferred to the Western Australia Police.

Bike Education the aims:

Bicycle education in Western Australia aims to:

- 🚲 Provide students with a set of survival skills for coping with traffic.
- 🚲 Change student attitudes to bicycle riding so they take it more seriously and understand their rights and responsibilities.
- 🚲 Develop student riding skills in a controlled environment.
- 🚲 Develop student understanding of Western Australian Road Rules.
- 🚲 Develop student on road riding skills.

Why Teach Bike Ed?

- 🚲 Of all children injured on roads, over 50% are cyclists.
- 🚲 5% of bicycle riders killed are under 17 years.

EDWA risk analysis indicates that the greatest risk to students is arriving and departing the school grounds.

Why Are Children at Risk

- Size means they cannot easily see or be seen in traffic.
- Concentration is limited and easily distracted.
- Actions are often spontaneous and unthinking.
- Ability to scan for things is not fully developed.
- Lack of ability to estimate distance and speed.

Why a need for change????

A recent audit of the Western Australia Bike Ed Program revealed that there had been a significant deterioration in the Service Delivery of Bike Ed, with Teacher/Parent participation/interest waning.

As a result of the September 2000 Audit, the following critical issues were identified.

- The erosion of Training Standards.
- Limited application of appropriate learning outcomes.
- Lack of confidence of training providers
- Lack of appropriate trainer qualification/competency.
- Reluctance by some teachers, parents and instructors to become involved in Bike Ed.

The audit also revealed that Bike Ed Area Managers were being diverted from their coordinating / development / marketing role into an environment where they were being absorbed into a role where they were becoming increasingly responsible for the delivery of training to the students.

In addition, the increasing emergence and community concern over DUTY OF CARE issues resulted in a need to restructure Bike Ed Course Content and the delivery of the Bike Ed Program in the school environment.

What's new about Bike Ed in Western Australia???

As a result of the findings of the Audit, the following strategies have been implemented with the view of ensuring that Bike Ed is rejuvenated and becomes a sustainable program within the school environment.

This has been achieved in two clearly defined areas, Service delivery and Course Content.

Service delivery

To support the effective delivery of Bike Ed the following processes have been implemented.

- 🔑🔑 Two vacant unsworn Bike Ed Area Managers positions have been replaced with sworn Police Officers.
- 🔑🔑 The Two Sworn Officers between them hold qualification as follows
 - Diploma in Training
 - Training Certificate IV
 - National Bicycle training Qualification
 - International Bicycle Training Qualification
- 🔑🔑 Bike Ed area Managers are in the process of being trained and formally qualified as Field Training Officers and Field Assessors.
- 🔑🔑 Qualified Trainers are now providing bike Ed Instructors with appropriate training.
- 🔑🔑 An in service introduction to Bike Ed Course is now being conducted at Teacher Training Colleges.
- 🔑🔑 Advanced bicycle riding and patrolling courses are being developed for Sworn Police Officers, Local Government Rangers and other interested parties.

Before a school is eligible to participate in the Bike Ed program, the following commitments are required

A School Must: -

- 🔑🔑 Provide a Road Safety Coordinator
- 🔑🔑 Provide teacher/s for training as qualified Instructor
- 🔑🔑 Commit to being actively involved in an ongoing Bike Education programme

In return, the Police will commit to: -

- 🔑🔑 Provide appropriate training of Bike Ed instructors (2 days intensive before certification) **NB: Active participation in instructing will be required to retain certification**
- 🔑🔑 Provide suitably qualified assessors.
- 🔑🔑 Provide all training manuals.
- 🔑🔑 Provide competency achievement certificates to students.
- 🔑🔑 Assist with the ongoing provision of Physical and Human Resources.

Course Content

The Bike Ed Course has been restructured into several competency based core modules each of which is subject to assessment prior to progression to the next module.

These core modules provide student with: -

- 🔑🔑 An understanding of bicycle safety.
- 🔑🔑 The development of riding skills in a controlled environment.
- 🔑🔑 An understanding of Western Australia Road Rules and law that will enable them to develop as competent road users.
- 🔑🔑 Development of on Road Riding Skills.
- 🔑🔑 A set of survival skills for coping with traffic.

🏆🏆 A signed certificate of competency at the successful completion of each of the core modules.

🏆🏆 The assessment process provides an ongoing audit of student and teacher performance and allows for the early intervention of any required remedial training. It also prevents the progression through the core modules until the required level of competency has been achieved.

In addition, the Bike Ed course has now been structured to fit within the Curriculum Framework and is now supportive of the following overarching statements: -

🏆🏆 ***“Students’ value and implement practices that promote personal growth and well-being”.***

🏆🏆 ***“Students recognise that everyone has the right to feel valued and be safe, and, in this regard, understand their rights and obligations and behave responsibly”.***

The Changes to this program have seen an increased interest from Schools, Teachers and PC committees.

In addition, the delivery of Bike Ed in this format introduces students to the road network in a structured manner and provides an excellent platform from which they can develop their road user skills during pre driver education programs.