

Safety Alert

11 October 2024

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

Driver sentenced to jail in Australia

A bus driver who killed 10 people and injured 25 others in a crash in Australia's Hunter Valley last June has been sentenced to a maximum of 32 years in prison.

The 59-year-old Wedding bus driver had been impaired by the opioid Tamerol when driving too fast and engaging in risk-taking behaviour before the horrific crash.

While avoiding manslaughter charges, he was convicted of numerous dangerous driving charges.

The driver knowingly over-medicated and chose to drive under those conditions, putting countless lives at risk and destroying so many.



[MinEx statistics](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 6 years show 29% of incidents (1,877 incidents) involve vehicles of which 924 result from vehicle collisions.

You need to ensure that:

1. Policies and procedures for managing worker impairment are in place and ensuring no worker operates mobile equipment if impaired.
2. All workers are aware, and regularly retrained in the risks associated with operating machinery if impaired by drugs and alcohol, whether prescribed or otherwise.
3. All workers are required to disclose any medication they are taking that could impact their work.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.