

SPEED RESTRICTIONS IN SCHOOL ZONES

You are by now very familiar with the 'Go 40 For Me' signs around schools.

Many drivers are doing the right thing and travelling at or below 40 kph in school zones.

As a result, our children are safer when getting to and from school.

In 2015/16, drivers need to continue their good driving habits. This Fact Sheet provides a handy reminder about driving in school zones.



Why is 40 kph the speed limit? Why not 50 or 60 kph?

Tests by professional drivers and researchers are conclusive. The faster you go, the more damage you do in a crash.

When struck by a vehicle at 60 kph only 15% of children survive. If struck at 50 kph only 55% survive. Struck at 40kph, 75% survive.

So, the slower you go, the less likely you are to kill a child if they run, walk or stumble in front of your vehicle.

And speed also has a big effect on how long it takes to stop. If a child runs towards the road or steps from in front of a parked car, from the

time you see them, it will take you a minimum of:

- 18 metres to stop from 40 kph
- 27 metres to stop from 50 kph
- 39 metres to stop from 60 kph.

It doesn't matter how good your car is. These distances apply to all cars and motorbikes on normal roads. And if you skid or your tyres and brakes are worn it will take even longer to stop. Remember, the slower you go the quicker you can stop.

And pay attention to what children are doing on the footpath. If you are distracted by something in the car you may not even see the child before you run over them.

You can stop in time only if:

- **You can see the child.**
- **You are going slow.**
- **You remain calm and don't skid.**
- **Your tyres and brakes are in good condition.**

Stay alert. Look for dangers in school zones. Expect children to do the unexpected.

Drive slowly. In school zones keep your foot off the gas and over the brakes – this gives you more time to see what children are doing, and then slow down or stop without causing anyone an injury.

