Alcohol Ignition Locks Legislation Becomes Law

Repeat drink drivers will have to install an alcohol ignition lock under new legislation passed by the Northern Territory Parliament last night.

Transport Minister Delia Lawrie said the Transport Legislation (Alcohol Ignition Locks) Act means repeat drink drivers must install alcohol ignition locks to get their driver licence back.

“The Northern Territory Government is committed to improving and protecting the lives of Territorians,” Ms Lawrie said.

“That is why we are making it harder for repeat drink drivers to re-offend.

“Repeat drink drivers risk their lives and others every time they get behind the wheel – but the ignition lock won’t allow the car to start if the driver is drunk.

“Repeat drink drivers will have to pass a breath test registering under 0.02 blood alcohol content each time they start a vehicle fitted with an ignition lock.

“They will also have to pass random breath tests throughout their journey.”

Ms Lawrie said alcohol ignition locks will have to be installed if a driver commits a second or subsequent offence for:

- High (over 0.15) and mid range (0.08-0.15) blood alcohol content;
- P platers and people under 25 that have not held a licence for a continuous period of three years that breach the zero alcohol condition; and
- Refusing a breath or blood alcohol sample.

Ms Lawrie said magistrates will impose the ignition locks for between six months and three years.

“Repeat drink drivers will continue to have their licence disqualified for the period the magistrate imposed until they fit their cars with an alcohol ignition lock,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Alcohol ignition locks will not wipe out drink driving but they are an important tool towards changing the culture of drink driving on our roads.

“The CLP Opposition opposed the legislation in the same way they opposed tougher licence suspension laws for repeat drink drivers introduced last year.”

Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563