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Australian Government

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School Zones and Children's Crossings Program FAQs

Key Message

- The School Zones and Children's Crossings Program (formerly known as the Electronic School Zone Signs Program) was established to enhance safety for vulnerable road users—particularly children—within School Zones. Over several years, the ongoing Program aims to create a safer environment by installing highly visible electronic flashing speed signs that activate during critical school start and finish times.
- In April 2024, State Government announced a $10 million investment which expanded the Program to enhance the safety of guard-controlled school crossings across the state over four years.
- The expanded School Zones and Children's Crossings Program includes additional funding to implement safe speed limits at all Children's Crossings located outside school zones during school hours across the state. This will be achieved by utilising Electronic Speed Limit Signs (ESLS) or static variable signs, depending on the posted speed of the road.
- This Program is funded through the Road Safety Commission's Road Trauma Trust Account for Main Roads to deliver.
- The initiative aims to enhance the safety of children walking, wheeling or cycling to and from schools, supporting the state's Active Travel to School Roadmap 2023-2030.

What is the objective of the School Zones and Children's Crossings Program?

The objective of the Program is to maintain the risk reduction that the Electronic School Zones offer and further enhance road safety by reducing speeds at Children's Crossings located outside of school zones.

Although static school zone signs show the required speed limit and the times of operation on the days that schools are open, motorists are not always aware if they are travelling within the time periods shown or during the dates that schools operate. The electronic signs are highly visible and display the 40 km/h speed limit during nominated school zone times only, providing a real-time reminder to motorists to slow down during school times.

At Children's Crossings located outside of school zones, the reduced speeds provide a safer road environment for children, traffic wardens and other users.

Benefits of the School Zones and Children's Crossings Program being delivered -

Increased Safety:

By reducing vehicle speeds at School Zones and Children's Crossings, the Program aims to create a safer environment for children traveling to and from schools.

Improved Awareness:

The flashing lights on the electronic speed limit signs draw drivers' attention to the School Zones and Children's Crossings, and the need to slow down.

Support for Active Travel:

By making School Zones and Children's Crossings safer, the Program encourages more students to walk, cycle, or use other forms of active travel to school.

Reduced Accidents:

The Program's goal is to reduce the number and severity of accidents involving pedestrians, particularly children, in School Zones and at Children's Crossings located outside of School Zones.

What treatments are included in the School Zones and Children's Crossings Program?

The Program will implement speed changes based on the following criteria:

- **Introduce 40 km/h variable speed zones using ESLS** for Children's Crossings located outside existing school zones on 60 km/h and 70 km/h roads.
- **Introduce 40 km/h variable speed zones using static signage** for Children's Crossings outside school zones on 50 km/h roads.
- **Extend existing school zones** to include nearby Children's Crossings, ensuring they fall within a 40 km/h speed zone.
- **No changes will be made** to Children's Crossings already located on roads with speed limits of 40 km/h or lower.

The 40 km/h speed limit will align with standard school zone hours - **7:30am to 9:00am and 2:30pm to 4:00pm during school terms**, with regional variations where applicable. These changes will ensure that all Traffic Warden-Controlled Children's Crossings in Western Australia operate within 40 km/h speed zones during school pick-up and drop-off times, enhancing safety for students and wardens.

As additional Children's Crossings are installed throughout Western Australia, 40 km/h speed zones will continue to be implemented at all locations.

What is the timeline for the School Zones and Children's Crossings Program?

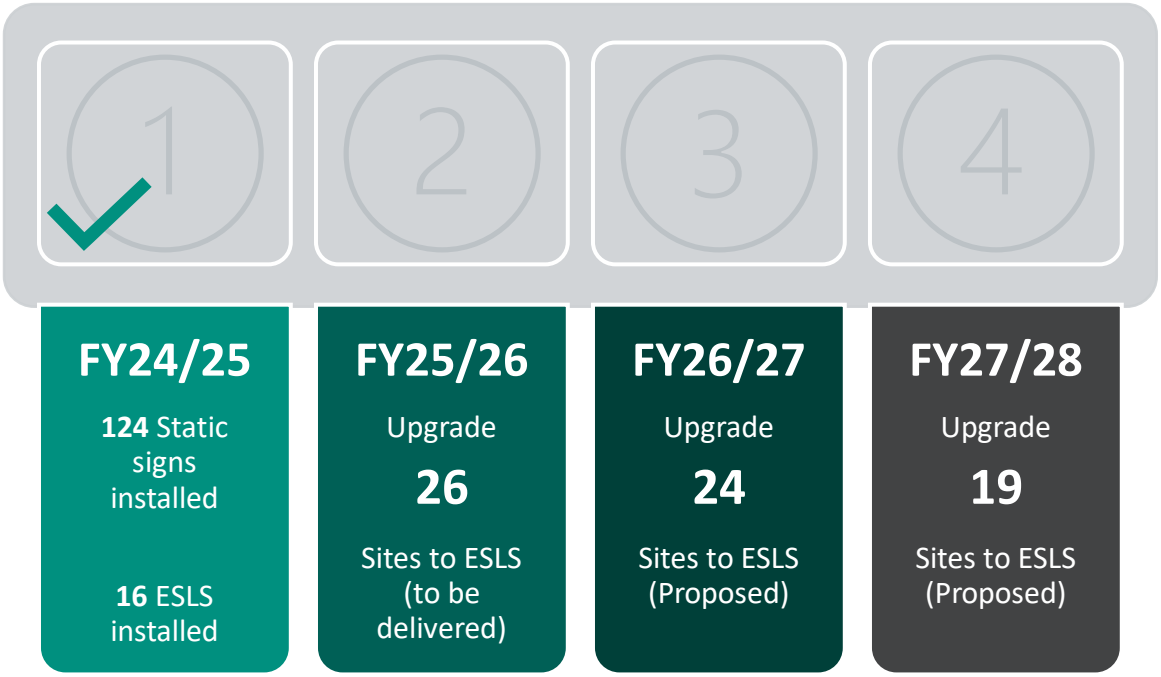
The Program will be delivered over a four-year period, spanning the 2024/25 to 2027/28 financial years.

How are sites prioritised within the School Zones and Children's Crossings Program?

The initial sites for implementation have been prioritised based on a range of factors, including higher-speed environments, carriageway and lane configurations, school types, historical incident data, and crossing locations.

What progress has been made during the first year of the School Zones and Children's Crossings Program, and what is next?

Program Implementation Timeline
FY24/25 ~ FY27/28



The figures above are provisional and may be affected by other projects or reprioritisation due to changes in circumstances

How will the School Zones and Children's Crossings Program impact the community?

By lowering speed limits around Children's Crossings, the Program aims to reduce the risk of accidents and create a safer environment for children who walk, cycle, or use mobility devices when travelling to and from school. The implementation of ESLS and static signage will further enhance driver awareness during school hours, supporting improved road safety outcomes.

How will these speed changes be enforced?

- The speed changes will be enforced in the same way as existing speed limits and other regulatory devices.
- Existing laws and penalties empower WA Police to enforce compliance with speed zones and traffic signals.
- All road users are required and expected to adhere to posted speed limits and comply with all applicable road rules.

Where can I find more information?

For further information, please contact the Congestion Management Services Branch within the Network Operations Directorate. They oversee the Program's implementation and can provide updates on progress, upcoming activities, and respond to any related enquiries.