Use of Private Vehicles

Do Schools need to comply?

Yes, if volunteers are used to transport students in private vehicles to school functions or students are old enough to drive to school.

Conditions of compliance:

You need to have policies and procedures in place to ensure the safety of students travelling in cars to school activities or to and from school if not driven by their parents/caregivers.

If you have to comply, what do you have to do?

In the case of volunteers driving students to school activities, it is advisable to ensure that the vehicle is registered, the drivers licensed, seat belts are available for all passengers, child restraints comply with the National Child Restraint Laws introduced into South Australia from 1 July 2010 (see link below), and parents’ permission has been obtained.

In the case of students driving to school, it is advisable to have a school policy on students driving cars to school and to school functions including whether they are able to transport other students in their cars. Parents’/caregivers’ permission should be obtained for the driver to drive to school and to carry passengers.

It is advisable to have a policy on students travelling in other student’s cars. Parents’/caregivers’ permission is also required for those travelling as passengers.

This issue relates to the level of a school’s duty of care responsibilities to its students.

What are the consequences if you don’t comply?

You may be in breach of your duty of care and subject to litigation should an accident or incident occur.

Useful links:

Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure