

Information for Travellers in Western Australia

Volatile substance use in Western Australia

Some regional areas of Western Australia can experience issues with the misuse of volatile substances, particularly among young people. Inhaling or 'sniffing' these substances is very dangerous and can be fatal.

You can help protect communities by reducing the chance of these substances being misused.

What is volatile substance use?

Volatile substance use is when someone deliberately inhales or 'sniffs' the gas, fumes or vapour from a volatile substance product to get a 'high' or feel intoxicated.

It's also called *inhalant use* or *solvent use*.

What products are volatile substances?

Most of these products are everyday items found in and around homes or sold in shops or online.

Common products that may be misused include:

- **aerosols** – deodorant, insect spray, cooking oil spray
- **solvents** – petrol, glues, toluene-based products, and some car and cleaning products
- **gases** – butane or propane gas canisters used in camping stoves, cigarette lighters and cigarette lighter refill cans.

How can you help reduce access to volatile substances?

If you're travelling in WA, you might be carrying items that could be misused. These items may be stolen from vehicles or taken from bins and rubbish tips.

To help prevent this, you can use alternative products, store and transport volatile substance products securely and dispose of them responsibly.

- **Choose safer products** – where possible, use aerosols with non-volatile propellants and other non-solvent based products.
- **Use Low Aromatic Fuel (LAF) where available** – LAF has been created with very low levels of chemicals that cause intoxication and is a direct substitute for regular unleaded fuel (91 octane). This may be sold as **Opal** or **Unleaded Low Aromatic**. It can be mixed with regular 91 unleaded fuel already in your tank.

- **Store items securely** – keep any volatile substance products or petrol-powered equipment locked away and out of sight.
- **Always lock your vehicle** – don't leave it unattended and unlocked.
- **Keep track of your items** – know what volatile substances you're carrying and check them before you leave a town or community.
- **Report missing items** – if anything is lost or stolen, contact local police. You can also report incidents like stolen products or people using volatile substances at vsureport.mhc.wa.gov.au

? Further information



For more information about volatile substance use, visit the Mental Health Commission's VSU website vsu.mhc.wa.gov.au or scan the QR code

The **Alcohol and Drug Support Line (ADSL)**, a 24-hour drug and alcohol counselling and information service 9442 5000 or 1800 198 024 (for country callers toll free)

Your local **Central Coordinating Agency** for volatile substance use issues:

For police assistance

Police: **131 444**

For emergencies

Ambulance or Police: **000 (Triple Zero)**