

**Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) 'Our People' News  
Segment Transcript**

**Episode 5 2008 'Operation Roadsafe DVD'**

**Speaking with Helen Zimmerman (ACL Group Managing Director)**

**June 2008**

**Duration: 2 minutes 23 seconds**

**Our People presenter:** Facing peak hour traffic is often a daunting prospect even for those of us who've been driving for years. Imagine how it would be for immigrants and refugees with little or no understanding of Australian road rules. Operation Roadsafe, a learning tool that provides practical road safety skills, was recently launched in Sydney, and is a driving force in helping new arrivals to better understand road rules in Australia.

*[ACL students using the Operation Roadsafe DVD in an ACL multimedia centre]*

**Peta Read (DIAC presenter):** For those of us who have struggled through a driving test, spare a thought for migrants and refugees who must adopt unfamiliar road rules with little or no English. Launched by English language education provider ACL, Operation Roadsafe explains Australian road rules and road safety, and assists new arrivals gain their driver's licence.

**Helen Zimmerman:** The whole objective for us was, in partnership with a multimedia company, to develop something that provided people with road safety rules, road awareness and assisted them in getting their licences.

**Peta Read:** As well as explaining the basics of Australian road rules, the interactive program helps clients build confidence behind the wheel and gain the independence of owning a driver's licence. Operation Roadsafe is made up of 150 animated interactive questions, ranging from road sign definitions to road safety rules for pedestrians.

**Helen Zimmerman:** It can be done in a class or a multimedia centre like you're seeing here... teachers use it as part of a teaching methodology, so they might be teaching the language around getting your licence, and so we've got material that people can work on, but it's broken down into chunks.

**Peta Read:** Part of the success of Operation Roadsafe is attributed to the working relationship between the Department and ACL, a driving force behind the program.

**Helen Zimmerman:** Our role is about assisting the Government to effectively settle people into Australia so that they form part of the fabric of what Australia is, and we couldn't do that if it wasn't a partnership.

**Peta Read:** The DVD also provides a refresher for the most experienced drivers.

**Helen Zimmerman:** I've been driving for about 40 years, and I find, still, that it can be pretty scary on the Australian roads.

**Peta Read:** Peter Read for Our People.