



HOT CARS

Leaving children unattended in the car, even for a short time, can be **FATAL**.



In most states and territories in Australia it is against the law to leave children unattended in a motor vehicle.

- ❌ Children can't handle heat as well as adults. Due to their smaller body size, they feel the effects of heat more quickly.
- ❌ On a typical Australian day, the temperature inside a parked car can be up to 30°C hotter than outside. For example, on a 30°C day, the inside of the car could reach 60°C.
- ❌ Most of this temperature rise happens within just 5 minutes of closing the car. Young children are at risk of dehydration, heatstroke, overheating, and suffocation, which can be very dangerous or even fatal.

❌ Do not use the car as a substitute ‘baby-sitter’.

Take children with you every time you leave the car, even to run a quick errand. It’s not worth taking the risk.

If possible, try to do jobs when your children are not with you, such as going to the service station, or look for service stations which offer pay at the pump services.



✅ Try and do a ‘look before you leave’ routine.

Why?

Sometimes people are so busy that they have forgotten there is a sleeping baby in the car. Make a habit of always checking the back seat before walking away from the car.

✅ What to do if you see a child locked inside an unattended vehicle:

1. Look for parents or carers.
2. Call 000 if the parents can’t be found or the child is in distress.
3. Wait for emergency services, or safely try to remove the child if you are concerned about their condition.

