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## Disqualified driver jailed over hit-run

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A drug-addled and disqualified driver of a stolen car permanently injured a woman when he ploughed through a busy intersection during a police pursuit, a court has been told.

The 65-year-old woman suffers ongoing pain in her left arm and has been too frightened to drive since Richard David Evans, 24, ignored a give way sign and smashed into the side of her car on July 16, 2006, sending it crashing into a picket fence.

She has also suffered from blackouts and whiplash.

Evans, who was high on speed at the time and was being chased by police through the streets of Caboolture on the Sunshine Coast, drove into a power pole and escaped on foot before being detained by police the following day.

He pleaded guilty in the Brisbane District Court on Wednesday to 38 charges including one count of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing grievous bodily harm, three of unauthorised use of a motor vehicle and four of driving without a licence.

The charges also included several stealing offences.

The court heard Evans has an appalling traffic history, and that he was disqualified in May 2005 after running off the road and slamming into two foreign students who were standing on the footpath.

The students suffered non-life threatening injuries.

Evans' barrister told the court his client was remorseful and ready to give up drugs and turn his life around.

However, Judge Walter Tutt told him he had already been given enough chances.

"Your criminal record shows your lawlessness knows no bounds and you have shown contempt for citizens' rights and their property over a period of six years," he said.

"It's only a miracle that your dangerous driving has not killed someone.

"If it was left to my judgment alone, that might reflect community standards of locking you up and throwing the keys away."

Judge Tutt sentenced Evans, who has already spent 366 days behind bars, to three years jail, and fixed his possible parole release date for April 18, 2008.

