



Learner Driver Support Program



A Joint Community Project by:
Murray Bridge Community Groups
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Introduction

L2P Murraylands (L2P) is a community managed program which aims to provide access to driving practice for those learner drivers who may have considerable difficulty in gaining on the road experience. Utilising a sponsored vehicle and volunteers, the learner driver has the opportunity to undertake supervised driving sessions, which may not otherwise have been possible given their family and financial circumstances. L2P will support eligible participants to achieve the 75 hours of in car driving required to complete a Learner Driver Permit. The 15 hours of night driving required as part of this obligation will be completed by participant or in negotiation with the program.

Project Rationale

The need for young people to transition from education to employment and access the necessary life domains to be successful and sustainable in our region is highly dependent on an ability to access an independent source of transport. A driving licence and access to suitable modes of transportation e.g. a road worthy vehicle can provide this essential transition. Obtaining a driving licence and access to transportation has been highlighted throughout a number of regional organisations as a repeated barrier preventing young people maintaining this transition and often presented a gap in obtaining their stated goal of independence. A key element of the Graduated Licensing System requires that all learner drivers complete a minimum of 75 hours supervised driving experience, which is certified and recorded by both the learner and the supervising driver(s). The experience must cover a variety of road conditions. For most young learner drivers, the opportunity to achieve 75 hours of supervised driving practice will be generated through professional driving instructor lessons and additional driving practice being provided by parents. For others, extended family or close friends provide this support. However, there are a number of young people who will have considerable difficulty in gaining access to this experience, due to non-availability of a vehicle or a supervising driver (or both) on an on-going basis and it is that group that will form the target group for the L2P program.

Access to the program is via a referral pathway and participant must meet the program selection criteria. Referrals can come from organisations and agencies such as: Social Welfare Agencies, Youth Accommodation, Juvenile Justice, Guardianship Board / Foster Parenting, Education, Employment Services- Job Active or DES provider, Schools or other community service organisations. Referrals can be made on a volunteer basis and assessed against selection criteria

L2P will match a volunteer mentor to accompany the learner driver for the 1-hour sessions scheduled through the program booking system. Access to sessions will be dependent on the availability of volunteer mentors and it is anticipated that the matched mentor will remain with the selected participant through the program duration. The volunteer mentor will complete a mentor training program and will have updated road rule and driver licence information provided at regular intervals to ensure the most recent and relevant information can be provided to participants. Access to a volunteer mentor does not replace instruction by a professional driving instructor. Participants will need to complete at least 3 driving lessons (though our preferences is 4) with an instructor prior to being accepted onto the program.

A suitable program vehicle will be provided for the mentored driving sessions.

Community Engagement

Community engagement will be a vital link in the ongoing success of the L2P program. As stated in the introduction L2P will be a community-based program. For the program to be sustainable a community sponsorship model will be developed to provide the ongoing financial and volunteer support that will be required to maintain the operational components of the program.

L2P will seek community support at various levels and to promote opportunities for community to raise funds or contribute in-kind support over each 12 months of the program duration. In consultation with potential sponsors, L2P can arrange a sponsorship meeting or session to explain the levels of sponsorship within the program.

L2P also acknowledges the support and operational assistance in developing this program for the Murraylands region. L2P is a collaboration of regional organisations and has accessed program development information from existing driver support programs including Wheels in Motion, Vic Roads L2P Driver Mentor support Programs and SYC Geared 2 Drive.

L2P Participants

Eligible participants

This program is for young people (aged 16+ years) and others who have their learner's permit but are facing genuine barriers in getting their licence. It may be that the young person doesn't have access to a car or has no one who can act in the role of a supervising driver on an ongoing basis.

To be eligible for the L2P program participants must meet the following program criteria:

- Aged 16+ years (inclusive)
- Hold a current Learners Drivers Permit – South Australia
- Have limited or no access to a road worthy vehicle or suitable supervising driver
- Have completed a minimum of 3 professional driving lessons and be declared competent to safely operate a vehicle under volunteer supervision
- Completed a competency report from a Motor Driving Instructor
- Contribute to each driving session with a volunteer mentor with \$12 per session donation paid before commencing the session to help cover costs i.e., fuel, car maintenance and registration etc.
- Each participant to attend a safety forum before program commencement
- Attend a further authorised professional driving lesson after 35 hours of program participation

Youth pathway to a Provisional Drivers Licence

Understanding how young people access a Provisional Drivers Licence is an important part of the L2P program.

Currently there are 3 levels of accreditation for a professional driving instructor. At each level the driving instructor can provide the following level of instruction.

1. Motor Driving Instructor – driving lessons only
2. CBT&A Authorised Examiner
3. VORT Authorised Examiner

A supervising adult with a full driver's licence for a minimum of 2 years can supervise a learner driver to complete the required 75 hours of driving experience (including 15 hours of night driving)

Obtaining a provisional driver's licence

Learner drivers can obtain a Provisional driver's licence P1 in two ways:

1. Competency Based Training – conducted through an CBT&A Authorised Examiner – tasks are signed off at the back of log book – no on road test required
2. Vehicle On road Test (VORT) motor driving instructor only provide driving lessons in preparation for VORT assessment which needs to be conducted by an VORT Authorised Examiner

L2P Mentors

L2P - Mentor role - Mentors are required to:

Act in the role of a supervising driver and help the young person build-up 75 hours of driving experience prior to going for the Probationary Licence develop and maintain a purposeful, empowering, supportive and ongoing relationship with a young person, provide friendship and non-judgmental support to the young person, provide the time to listen to and support the learner driver without telling them what to do but rather supporting them to find their own answers, have fun with the learner driver! and meet with the learner driver for at least one session of one hour a week.

L2P - Mentor eligibility

The L2P mentor role is open to anyone in the community who is over the age of 21, has their full licence for a minimum of 2 years and complies with all of the requirements that make up the selection process as outlined in detail below. Potential mentors are required to undergo a Police Check (DCSI Clearance), Working with Children Check and a South Australian Driver History Report. We cover any costs associated with these checks. Mentors are also required to attend a one-hour interview and L2P mentor

training. The training includes an online component and one full day in person per year. Mentors will also participate in Child Safety Standards training.

L2P - Mentor training and assistance

All volunteers will be required to complete a training program which will be provided by licenced Driving Instructor(s). The training program is developed for the volunteers to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to provide supervised driving practice to a young person. The training will cover the following topics:

- Novice driver crashes and safety factors contributing to crashes
- the role of practice in skill acquisition and safer driving
- the importance of a graded or staged approach to the learner period
- the learner driver stages as outlined by the SA Government's Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure
- working with young people
- issues concerning disadvantaged young people
- the coaching role providing feedback as a supervising driver
- the program content, processes, and rules.

L2P - Mentor time commitment

A mentor's commitment to the learner driver is scheduled for a minimum of one hour per week over a 12-month period. Mentors are also required to attend training at the beginning of the program to prepare them for their role.

L2P - Mentor support

The L2P Project Officer makes thorough assessments of possible matches to ensure we create relationships which are safe, supportive and suit the need of the mentor and learner driver. We provide free training courses for volunteer mentors to learn the skills which will be essential in their supportive roles with the learner driver. The L2P Project Officer keeps in regular contact with the mentors and learner drivers to support them in their relationship. Mentors are also updated at regular intervals throughout the program with programmed Mentor 2 Mentor sessions to provide feedback and discuss the programs delivery.

Community Sponsorship

L2P will operate on a community sponsorship model. The contributions for the community provide the necessary operational costs for the program. Energy Education Australia Inc. in conjunction with the Rural City of Murray Bridge perform the lead agency role and contribute to the programs coordination and weekly operations.

To ensure the program sustainability a L2P coordinator will manage the participant bookings, support the volunteer base and organise the required ongoing training incorporated into the program.

Community Sponsorship - financial contribution

Donor \$250	Proud sponsor \$ 750	Program Sponsor \$ 1500	Program Partner \$2500
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Please contact us for additional information regarding Sponsorship Packages. DGR Sponsorship can be arranged.

L2P will also accept in – kind contributions to assist with program coordination, training materials, program recourses and program promotion.

Additional Information is available – website: www.L2P.org.au | email: info@L2P.org.au

