

Mentee [Learner Driver] Handbook



Murraylands



Introduction

Overview of the L2P program

The L2P program is a Murraylands initiative managed by Energy Education Australia in conjunction with the Rural City of Murray Bridge and community groups. It is aimed at assisting young learner drivers who are facing significant barriers to complete the 75 mandatory hours of on the road driving experience. These barriers may include lack of access to a vehicle or licenced driver, homelessness, social isolation and/or financial hardship.

L2P is a community based volunteer program designed to provide access to driving practice on public roads for learner drivers under the supervision of a fully licenced driver. The learner drivers are matched with a volunteer supervising driver (Mentor) from the community, who works with the learner so that they can achieve their goal of 75hrs.

Criteria for Learner Driver Participants:

The L2P Program supports young people aged 16+ years, who already have their South Australian Learners Permit and have been identified as facing significant barriers which prohibit them from obtaining their probationary drivers licence if they do not receive support from the community.

How the Program Works:

Several stages are completed before any driving is undertaken.

Registered Driving Instruction:

There is a cost for these initial lessons that you have to pay to the Driving Instructor.

Prior to matching a learner driver with a Mentor, each mentee is asked to complete a minimum of 3 driving lessons with an SA Registered Driving Instructor. The professional driving instructor will determine your level of driving competence. He/she will then either ask you to attend a 4th lesson or recommend you notify the L2P Program that you are ready to attend an interview with the L2P team.

L2P Interview:

At the interview you will need to have with you your SA Learner Driving Permit and Log Book that has been completed by you and your SA Driving Instructor.

We will be asking questions about what your interests are, the type of things you enjoy doing, what you would like to achieve once you have your license etc. While these questions might sound strange, we need to get to know you so we can pair you with a suitable volunteer mentor who will assist you during your practical sessions of driving.

At this meeting you will be given an estimated time as to when the next training session for mentees will be held. You will need to enrol for this session if you intend to join the program.

Induction and initial training

Compulsory attendance is required:

These sessions will be presented by members from:

- SAPOL
- Driving Associations and
- L2P Program personnel

At this session you will experience both the joy and trauma that drivers and their families do and can experience. Be prepared to participate fully in this hands on session.

Practical Sessions

- **You need to meet your mentor:**

While you can always request to complete your sessions with another mentor, we encourage you to at least spend the first couple of sessions with your paired mentor so that you both get use to a style of working together.

Each time you attend a Practical Session:

- Please walk around the car with your mentor
- Get to know the parts and be aware of whether the car tyres need air or the car has been scratched or damaged in any way.
- Sit in the car, familiarise yourself with the interior and controls, check your mirrors, adjust your seat, check the fuel gauge – do you have sufficient petrol etc. all these checks should be done before you start driving.
- Do you have your SA Driver's Learner Permit and Log Book with you – show it to your mentor. The law states both mentor and mentee must have their respective licenses with them during a practical session.

The L2P Program is based on a four stage graduated licencing system where you will be guided through the stages

Stage 1:

- Is about controlling the car. It's the shortest stage and aims to get the learner to start, stop and steer safely in quiet areas without traffic. You could find your mentor will for the first few times, drive you to a quiet area for you to then practise this stage
- Suitable areas include: large private driveways, large car parking areas that are empty, etc.

Stage 2:

- Is about applying new car control skills and looking out for other road users on quiet low speed roads with little traffic.
- Suitable areas include: quiet country roads, quiet urban back streets, etc.

Stage 3:

- Usually takes longer to complete and uses the Stage 1 and Stage 2 skills on busier roads and in more difficult and varied driving situations.

- Suitable areas include: busier roads, highways, roads with traffic lights, etc.

Stage 4:

- Takes a long time and can be the longest stage. It involves the learner practising to be a solo driver, making difficult decisions and building a range of experiences.
- Suitable areas include: busy roads, highways, city or town roads, etc.

Roughly around the 30 hour mark in your practical sessions we would like you to attend a session with your SA Registered Driving Instructor, with your Mentor as a passenger in the car. A reduced fee will be charged by the Driving Instructor but it is a check that you are meeting the requirements needed to pass your practical session. Any bad habits you might have developed can then be corrected.

The Role of the Mentor

- Offer support, encouragement, optimism and hope
- Offer guidance, support and realistic advice as requested
- Help with goal setting, suggest possible courses of action, and support the young person in making choices
- Help young people identify their strengths and promote self-esteem
- Be a sounding board for ideas and problems
- Help young people to develop their skills
- Offer a consistent, non-judgemental relationship

Mentor/ Mentee Dos and Don'ts

- Please do NOT speak to the media or make public comment on behalf of the program without the permission from the L2P coordinator.
- Do NOT lend money or give or receive gifts unless authorised by the L2P coordinator in writing.
- Do NOT disclose others' personal information unless authorised in writing by the L2P coordinator.
- DO act responsibly and make sure safety is maintained at all times.
- If injured while participating in the L2P program DO contact the L2P coordinator.
- DO inform the L2P coordinator of any incidents (even if they are small) that occur during the program.
- DO treat others respectfully and with consideration.
- DO be prepared to take responsibility for any traffic offences such as parking or speeding tickets that you incur whilst driving.
- DO consult with the L2P coordinator if you are unsure or concerned about any aspect of the program or your role as a mentor

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do I sign up for the program?**
To join the program, you will have to fill out a few forms: -
 1. L2P Learner Application Form (plus a clear photocopy of your Learner Permit)
 2. L2P Eligibility Checklist or by being Referred

Once we have received these forms from you, the L2P Coordinator will be in touch to organise a time to schedule an induction meeting. At the induction meeting, you will need to sign some paperwork, and we'll discuss the program further. Once the interview is completed, we will work on matching you with a suitable

mentor.

- **What sort of time commitment do I need to make to the program?**
Once you have been matched with a Mentor, you should allow approximately 1 to 2 hours per week; however, the amount of time spent is an individual choice and can be negotiated between yourself and your Mentor.
- **Is there a cost for a Practical Driving Session?**
Yes. For each practical driving session you are asked to donate \$12.00 towards the cost of fuel and insurance etc. You will be asked to make the donation when you book.
- **Do I have to provide my personal details to my Mentor?**
No. This is entirely up to you. You, as a Mentee, do not have to share your details until you are comfortable to do so.
- **Can I contact my Mentor for reasons not related to the L2P Program?**
Contact between a Mentee and Mentor outside of the L2P Program is not encouraged. However, in a small community it is unrealistic for Mentors and Mentees to maintain separation at all times. Given this, minimal contact between Mentors and Mentees outside of the L2P program is preferred.

Vehicle Operational Procedures

General Information:

- L2P vehicle(s) are to be left in a clean and tidy condition.
- L2P Vehicle(s) are to be picked up and returned at the booked times. If drive time is to be extended or in an emergency, local contact details will be provided with the car.
- Log books are to be filled out clearly.
- L2P vehicle(s) are to be returned with a full tank of petrol. Fuel cards can be found in the centre console, you will need to provide the odometer reading and use a supplied pin when purchasing fuel. Please fill in the vehicle log book (in glovebox) clearly.
- Any incidents with vehicle(s) are to be reported immediately and an incident report filled out as soon as possible.
- The Mentor must complete the vehicle logbook for each driving session recording; the date, odometer reading at start and finish, total kilometres travelled, the starting and finishing times, Mentor's and Mentee's name.
- The vehicle is for the sole purpose of the L2P program and is not for personal use.
- Mentors are never to use their personal vehicle for the purposes of this program, as they will not be covered by our insurance policy.

***This handbook should be read in conjunction with the various L2P Policies & Procedures.
Ask your Coordinator at your induction if you wish to know more about the program or email us.***

Application Forms and additional information is available online for downloading.

Email: info@l2p.org.au
Web: www.l2p.org