



PROGRAM OVERVIEW



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Youth on Wheels

What is Youth on Wheels?

Youth on Wheels is a learner driver program developed to support young people to gain their provisional driver's licence, which they are unable to gain through their own means.

The Youth on Wheels program aims to:

- Assist learner drivers who do not have ready access to a suitable supervising driver or vehicle
- Set a foundation for driving through developing basic skills in operating a motor vehicle and getting familiar with vehicle controls
- Develop traffic skills
- Develop low risk driving skills, such as road management, road positioning, decision making and responding to hazards
- Reduce risk of injury and fatalities
- Reduce isolation
- Reduce financial and family barriers to obtaining a vehicle license
- Improve mental and physical well-being of youth by allowing them to travel to network, join in recreational and sporting activities
- Increase the independence and transport options for young people in regional and rural areas to access education, employment and social activities

How does it work?

Young people aged 16 to 25 years and hold a valid learner's permit are eligible to participate in the Youth on Wheels Program. Young people must be referred by a school, government service or other agency.

Referrals are welcome at any time; however time of entry into the program is dependent on volunteer/roster availability.

Participants attend 2 x 1 hour driving sessions per week with volunteer mentors in the new automatic Hyundai Accent Hatch 1.4L Auto which have been fitted with dual brakes for safety. A cost of \$5 per session is applied to encourage ownership and responsibility by participants and to contribute to ongoing program costs.

Volunteers and participants are covered by the District Council of Grant's compulsory third party and fully comprehensive car insurance.

How young people get a licence

As part of the program, it is important to understand the process and conditions of how young people get their Provisional Licence.

There are 3 levels of accreditation for professional driving instructors, each level determines the extent in which they can sign off on learners Logs Books:

1. Motor Driving Instructor (driving lessons only)
2. Accredited motor driving instructor
3. Authorised motor driving instructor/examiner (can conduct VORT)

A private supervising adult and any of the above can mentor learners in an effort to achieve their 75 hours of required driving experience, (including 15 hours night driving)

There are 2 ways in which a learner driver can obtain their P1 licence:

1. Competency Based Training – conducted by an accredited or an authorised motor driving instructor/examiner (tasks can be signed off at back of log book – no on road test required)
2. Vehicle On Road Test (VORT) – a motor driving instructor can only provide driving lessons in preparation for a VORT test which needs to be conducted by an authorised motor driving instructor/examiner.

Volunteers

Council undertakes screening and training for suitable volunteers involved in mentoring.

It is preferred that Volunteers in Youth on Wheels be available for at least 2 x 1 hour block of time on a weekday per week for a minimum of 6 months. This enables the volunteer mentors and participants to develop a confident and productive relationship.

As part of our Risk Management Plan, Council has determined that the legal requirements of a supervising driver will be:

- 25 years and over
- held a full (non-probationary) car licence for the past 2 years
- Criminal History Checked
- DCSI Screened
- Mandated Notification Trained
- Undertake a competency based on road assessment with an accredited motor driving instructor

All volunteers are breath tested prior to commencing a driving session under the youth on Wheels program and therefore must have Blood Alcohol Concentration of 0.00.

Participants

Youth on Wheels provides an opportunity for young people aged 16 to 25 with a current Learner's permit, who otherwise lack the support to do so, to achieve the required supervised driving hours in order to be eligible to attain a provisional driving licence.

Eligibility for Participants:

- Aged 16 to 25 years (inclusive)
- Hold a current Learners Driving Licence
- Have limited access to a road worthy vehicle or suitable supervising driver
- Have completed 3 professional driving lessons to be declared competent as safely operating a vehicle under volunteer supervision
- Have completed a competency report from a Motor Driving Instructor.

Youth on Wheels recommends that participants have a minimum of 3 professional driving lessons, however less will be considered where the participant has significant driving experience (in excess of 20 hours logged) and has a successful competency report obtained through a motor driving instructor.