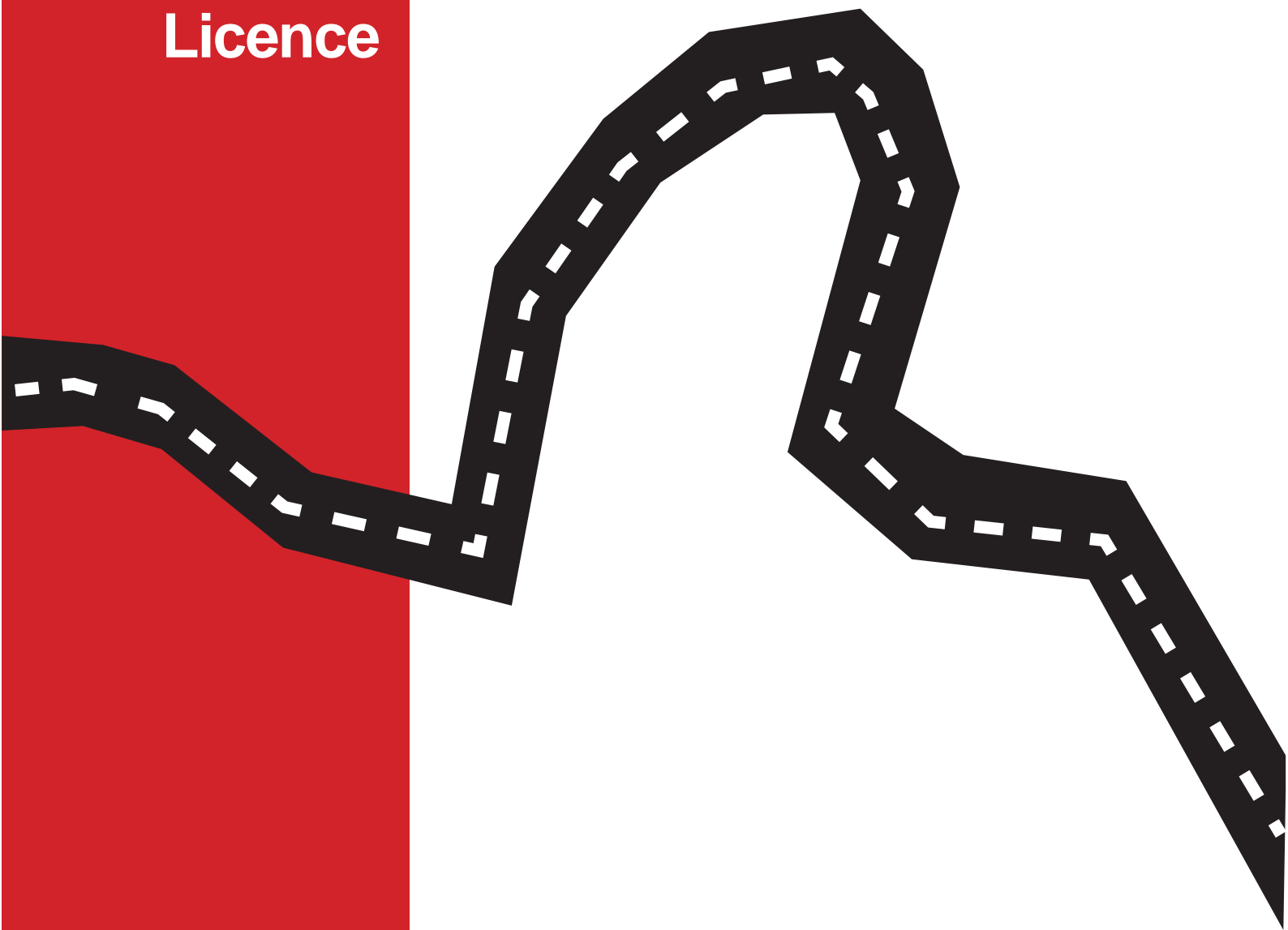


part 2

How to Obtain a Western Australian Licence



Western Australia has a graduated licensing system for new drivers. This means that novice drivers must complete a number of assessments and gain experience in different driving conditions before being granted a provisional driver's licence.

A graduated system also applies to drivers obtaining motorcycle or heavy vehicle licences. Full details of experience requirements for motorcycle or heavy vehicle licences are at Appendix 1.

2.1 Getting Your C (Car) Licence

Before you can learn to drive any motor vehicle on the road, you must have a valid learner's permit. A learner's permit allows you to drive a vehicle of the specified class.

The minimum age at which a person can obtain a learner's permit is 16 years except where in the opinion of the Director General, the denial of a licence to a younger person would cause undue hardship.

You may apply for a learner's permit at any Licensing Centre or regional Licensing Agent. The permit is valid for 3 years and can be replaced free of charge.

When applying for a learners permit for the first time you must provide evidence of your age, identity and where you live. The forms of identification you will need to take to a Licensing Centre can be found at Appendix 5.

When you apply for a learner's permit, you will be charged a fee that allows you to take one practical on-road driving assessment.

All application fees must be paid at the time you apply and will not be refunded if your application is refused.

2.1.1 The Graduated Driver Training and Licensing System

The Graduated Driver Training and Licensing System is designed to make sure learner drivers get a wider range of supervised driving experience under different road and traffic conditions over a longer period before driving solo.

The system is designed to help you acquire the practical driving skills, good driving habits and the responsible and courteous attitudes that are essential to safety on our roads.

■ The Six Steps to a Provisional Licence

Step One- Learner's Permit

Before you are issued with a learner's permit you will have to:

■ pass a computerised theory test

The computerised test consists of multiple choice questions on the road rules and safe driving practice. You need to read this book beforehand, as the information will help you to answer the test questions. You can also practice the learner's test on the website www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing to help you pass the test;

■ pass an eyesight test

If you need glasses or contact lenses to pass the test, your permit and licence will be endorsed to show that these must be worn when you drive; and

■ pass a medical test (if required)

If you have a medical condition and/or take medication, you **MUST** declare this on the application form when you apply for a driver's licence. The customer service officer will advise whether or not you will need to have a medical assessment before you can obtain a learner's permit.

Step Two- Learning to Drive

Once you have your learner's permit, you can begin lessons with a qualified instructor. The person who teaches you to drive can be:

(a) a person who holds an instructors licence issued under the Motor Vehicle Drivers Instructors Act 1963; or

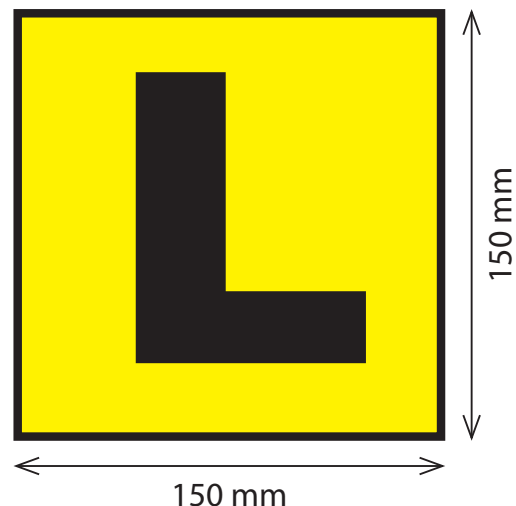
(b) a person who is an instructor in a youth driver education course conducted or supervised by a body authorised by the Director General for that purpose; or

(c) a person who is authorised (licensed driver) to perform any driving of a kind for which the driving instruction is to be given and has had that authorisation for a period of, or periods adding up to —

(i) in the case of driving of a moped, at least 2 years; or

(ii) in any other case, at least 4 years

If your instructor has an automatic transmission restriction on their licence, they can only supervise you in an automatic vehicle.



You must carry your permit and drive within the conditions shown on the permit and display 'L' plates on the front and rear of the vehicle when you are driving.

The highest speed allowable for a learner driver is 100 km/h. Learner drivers are not allowed to drive within the boundaries of Kings Park or wherever signs prohibit learner drivers.

Learner drivers must not drive if they have a blood alcohol concentration greater than 0.00 per cent.

Step Three– Practical On-Road Driving Assessment

When you have developed the ability to control your vehicle safely and if you are at least 16 years and 6 months old you can take the practical assessment.

The assessment looks at the quality of your driving rather than the way you perform individual skills. When a learner driver shows signs of quality it generally means that they have had plenty of practice and have encountered many different driving experiences. So, to be ready to go for your assessment you will need to be able to handle many different situations without relying on your supervisor's help.

If you don't pass the driving assessment you will have to pay another fee to take the assessment again. It is in your interest to make sure you have enough experience before you make your appointment.

If you wish to change or cancel an appointment you **MUST** give more than 2 working days notice to Licensing, otherwise you will forfeit your assessment and have to pay for another assessment. To cancel or change an assessment, e-mail Licensing at callcentre@transport.wa.gov.au or phone 13 11 56.

On the day of your practical driving assessment:

- arrive at least ten minutes before the appointed assessment time - if you are late you will lose your assessment and have to pay another fee;
- drive to the Licensing Centre with your instructor;
- as soon as you arrive at the Licensing Centre inform the staff that you have an appointment;
- you will need to produce your learner's permit and primary identification prior to taking the assessment; and
- you will also need to provide a roadworthy and licensed vehicle or you will not be assessed.

During your driving assessment, you will be given clear directions and no attempt will be made to confuse or trick you. Every effort is made to give a similar assessment to

all applicants, regardless of where it takes place. The roads on which you will travel have been chosen to give a fair evaluation of your driving ability.

The driving assessor will be understanding, but will not discuss your driving as this may distract you. Remember, it is not the assessor's job to teach you how to drive. You should expect long periods of silence but that does not mean the assessor disapproves or is unfriendly.

Listen carefully to what the assessor asks you to do and carry out the instructions as well as you can. After the assessment, if there is enough time the assessor may discuss your driving with you.

Step Four– Log Book

Once you have passed your driving assessment, you must gain further experience driving under supervision. You will be issued with another learner's permit (Phase 2) and a log book. You will need to record in your log book at least 25 hours of your driving experience across a range of conditions. The 25 hours is a minimum requirement and you should try and get as many hours of supervised driving experience as possible. *Research indicates that young novice drivers who gain at least 100-120 hours of supervised driving experience are better prepared for a lifetime of safe driving and are less likely to be involved in serious crashes.* During this stage you must still display 'L' plates and drive within any of the conditions printed on your permit.

You should get as much supervised driving experience in as many different road, weather and traffic conditions as you can. This will better prepare you for when you can drive unsupervised and will help you pass the Hazard Perception Test. It is recommended that your supervised driving experience includes:

- driving on freeways, highways and/or major roads;
- driving at night time; and
- driving at speeds between 80 km/h and 100 km/h on roads with appropriate speed limits.

You must take care with your log book – keep it in a safe place at all times.

You should only give it to your instructor for endorsement of the Record of Driving Tuition section. You will not be given any credit for supervised driving that is not substantiated and detailed in this log book. If your log book is lost, destroyed or misplaced, previous supervised driving experience will not be credited.

The log book is a legal document and false or misleading information will cause those that have signed this document, liable to prosecution.

Step Five– Hazard Perception Test (HPT)

Six months following the successful completion of your practical driving assessment, and once your log book has been checked and verified that you have completed the minimum 25 hours, you can sit the HPT to obtain your provisional licence. This computerised test will assess your ability to respond to different traffic situations and to make safe driving decisions.

The test consists of a computer screen that displays a series of moving traffic scenes. You have to respond to each scene by clicking a mouse to indicate when it is safe to commence a manoeuvre or when it is necessary to take the appropriate action to reduce the risk of a crash for the traffic situation.

The computer recorded response time, or lack of response from you, will then be compared to the recommended response (or no response) times required, to pass the test.

When you pass the Hazard Perception Test and paid relevant licence fees, you will be issued with a provisional licence.

You will be charged a fee prior to sitting the Hazard Perception Test.

Step Six– Provisional Licence

Once you have your provisional licence, you can drive without supervision. For the next two years you will have to display 'P' plates whenever you drive.

A person will be issued with a provisional licence if they:

- have not previously held a valid licence (issued in either WA or another state or country) for an aggregate period of two years; or
- are younger than 19.



Must be displayed
For the first 6
months of your
provisional licence
period

Must be displayed
for the remaining
18 months of your
provisional licence
period

If you hold a provisional licence and you are convicted of any of the offences listed below and over the page, you may be fined and your provisional licence will be automatically cancelled:

- driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle with a BAC equal to or in excess of 0.02 per cent;
- failing to stop after a crash;
- failing to report a crash;
- unlawfully killing a person while driving a vehicle;
- dangerous driving causing injury or death;
- dangerous or careless driving;

- failing to supply correct name and address when required by a police officer;
- applying for or obtaining a licence while disqualified;
- forging or altering any driver or vehicle licence document, number plate or Registration sticker or disc;
- unlawfully possessing and using false number plates or Registration sticker or disc
- failing to stop when called upon to do so by a police officer;
- stealing a motor vehicle;
- unlawfully interfering with the mechanism of a vehicle;
- using false number plates, Registration sticker or disc, or being in possession of false driver or vehicle licence documents; or
- lending or allowing a person to use any vehicle or driver licence document, number plate Registration sticker or disc.

If you are the holder of a provisional licence and you accumulate 12 or more demerit points within a three year period, your licence will be cancelled.

2.2 Getting a Motorcycle Licence

To get a class R-N (moped), R-E (motorcycle restricted) or R (motorcycle) licence, you first need to obtain a learner's permit (see Part 2.1). Before you get your learner's permit, you will have to answer a series of questions on the road rules and some specific questions relating to riding motorcycles.

As with all learners' permits, you are not allowed to ride on the road unless you have an instructor with you. This can be a licensed professional driving instructor or someone who currently holds a valid licence for the same motorcycle class as your learner's permit. Your instructor must have held that class of licence class or equivalent for four years or more. In the case of a moped, your instructor must have held a class C, R-E or R licence (or equivalent) for at least two years.

You must carry your permit and drive within the conditions shown on the permit

Your supervisor can be carried on the pillion seat or in the sidecar, or they may ride another motorcycle. You must display 'L' plates on the front and rear of the motorcycle you are riding.

2.3 Getting a Heavy Vehicle Licence

Before you get a heavy vehicle licence class LR (light rigid), MR (medium rigid), HR (heavy rigid), HC (heavy combination) or MC (multi-combination), you must meet the experience requirements for that class of licence. (see Appendix 1). You may need to obtain a learner's permit prior to undertaking lessons to drive a heavy vehicle. Please visit www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing for further information

If required, once you have obtained your learner's permit, you can learn to drive a heavy vehicle from within the class or eligible. You cannot learn to drive unless you have a inspector with you. Your supervisor can be a licensed professional driving instructor or someone who currently holds a valid licence for the same class as stated on your learner's permit and they must have held that class of licence for four years or more.

2.3.1 Assessment for Heavy Vehicles

During your driving assessment you must demonstrate your skills in a vehicle appropriate to the licence class.

If the vehicle used for your assessment is fitted with a non-synchromesh gearbox, you will have to change gears using the double de-clutch method. If you pass your assessment in a vehicle with an automatic or synchromesh gearbox, you will be issued with a restricted licence.

To obtain an MC class licence, you have to meet the class eligibility requirements (see Appendix 1) and successfully complete an industry training course.

Please contact your local Licensing Centre or regional Licensing Agent for details of assessment arrangements and training course providers.

2.4 Seniors Assessments

Persons aged 85 and over are required to undertake a driving assessment each year before their licence is renewed.

When multiple entitlements are held to drive vehicles of various licence classes (eg vehicle and motorcycle) seniors must be assessed in a vehicle from the highest class of licence they wish to retain.

If the person holds and wishes to retain both a motorcycle and other vehicle licences, they will need to pass an assessment for both types of vehicle.

2.5 Bribery

It is a serious offence to offer any gift or payment to obtain a licence. Any person who makes such an offer will be prosecuted.

2.6 Organ Donation

Organ and tissue donation is an act of giving. When you obtain your licence you can register to make an organ or tissue donation if an unexpected event such as a car crash or a medical condition takes your life.

Registering as an organ donor means that if you are declared dead, your family will be asked to allow your wishes regarding the donation of organs or tissue to be fulfilled. This is how organs and tissue are obtained for transplantation.

The following information can help you make a decision about this very important subject.

2.6.1 The importance of organ donation

There are a considerable number of children, teenagers and adults throughout Australia, who are waiting desperately for organ and tissue transplants. Organ and tissue donation can be either a life saving or a life-enhancing procedure for these people.

The organs that can be donated are kidneys, heart, lungs, liver and pancreas. Tissue donations include corneas, heart valves and long bones. You can choose all of these, or select individual organs or tissue you wish to donate. You may also indicate that you do not wish to be an organ and tissue donor.

2.6.2 Circumstances of organ and tissue donation

If you elect to donate your organs, donation will only take place after you have been certified dead and after your family has given its approval. In Australia, 'death' is defined as either irreversible cessation of:

- all functions of the brain; or
- circulation of the blood.

Brain death occurs when the brain has lost all function from lack of blood flow and is unable to recover. To determine function, senior doctors who cannot be involved in transplantation, carry out a number of tests. The tests are done twice.

Doctors can tell the difference between brain death and a coma. A coma is a state of unconsciousness that occurs because the brain is injured in some way. However, the brain still functions (and may heal) and this can be seen in the tests that are performed. Brain death is the cessation of brain function without the possibility of recovery. Nobody has ever recovered from brain death.

Tissue donation takes place after clinical death when the heart has stopped and breathing ceased. Tissue donation can take place up to 24 hours after death.

2.6.3 Medical procedures in organ donation

Donated organs are removed in an operating theatre by some of Australia's leading surgeons. Organ donation is treated like any other surgical operation. The body is not disfigured and can be viewed by the family after the procedure.

Once the organs are removed, the operation is complete. The family of the donor is then able to see their relative again. Funeral and burial arrangements are not affected by organ donation, and remain the responsibility of the family.

2.6.4 Becoming a registered organ donor

To register your wish to become an organ donor, you need to complete the Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR) form. This will be sent with your licence, or can be found at Department of Transport Licence Centres, Medicare Offices, DonateWest or by contacting the AODR. The AODR is a new national register that has replaced the driver's licence system for recording your wish to be an organ donor.

Generally there are no limitations on organ and tissue donation so both young children and elderly adults can still register on the AODR.

Organ donation can take place only under certain circumstances where someone is declared 'brain dead' in hospital. This usually occurs in an intensive care unit and the person is always on a ventilator. Tissue donation takes place after death – that is, when breathing and heartbeat have ceased.

You must also talk to your family because they are the people who will be approached should you become a donor. If they are not aware of your wishes, they may not give permission for the donation to take place. This decision is so much harder if your family is unaware of your wishes and they are asked to make a decision on your behalf. Family discussion is very important.

To find out more about organ donation, contact one of the following organisations:

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| ■ DonateWest
www.donatewest.health.wa.gov.au
Ph: 9222 0222 | ■ Australians Donate
www.organdonation.org.au | ■ Lion's Eye Bank
Ph: 9381 0770 |
| ■ Australian Organ Donor Register
www.hic.gov.au/organ
Ph: 1800 777 203 | ■ Australian Kidney Foundation
Ph: 9322 1354 | |

2.7 Blood Donation

Every single day someone needs blood or blood products. Precious blood donations help save people with cancer; heart; stomach and bowel diseases; pregnant women and their babies, road trauma victims and many other serious medical situations.

2.7.1 The importance of blood donation

One in three people are likely to need blood at some stage in their life and yet currently only one in thirty donate it. Once you reach your sixteenth birthday you can start saving lives by giving blood.

2.7.2 Are you eligible?

Blood donors need to be between 16 and 70 years old, weigh over 45kg, feel fit and healthy, not had a tattoo or body piercing in the last 12 months and not lived in the UK between 1980 and 1996 for six months or more.

If you believe you are eligible you can call 13 14 95 to make an appointment and talk to a medical officer to check your eligibility.

Special criteria applies to donating blood to ensure the safest blood supply for the Australian Health System.

If you would like more information on eligibility criteria, visit www.donateblood.com.au

2.7.2 Where to give blood

Call 13 14 95 or go to www.donateblood.com.au to make an appointment at the following blood donor centres:

- Metro Donor Centres - Perth, Whitfords, Fremantle, Cannington, Midland and Rockingham.
- Regional Donor Centres - Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie.

It takes someone special to give blood.

