

# Learner Driver Mentor Program

## Seed Funding

2010

## Information



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## ***Background***

### ***Young Drivers***

Young road users aged 16-25 years were the largest group of serious casualties in Tasmania during 1999-2008, totalling 32 per cent. Provisional drivers in Tasmania have a crash rate four times higher than other licence holders. This over representation of young people in road crashes is a world-wide phenomenon.

The learner period (which is supervised by a fully qualified driver) is the safest period for a young driver to gain experience. Research shows the amount of supervised driving experience received in a variety of conditions is a key factor in reducing the risk of crash involvement for young drivers. As learners' experience increases, their risk of crash involvement declines.

Since 2002, all learners must record 50 hours of supervised driving in a logbook, before they can take their practical driving assessment. It has been recognised that the two main problems some young people face when learning to drive are gaining access to a suitable vehicle and access to an appropriate supervisory driver to gain the 50 hours required.

### ***Graduated Licensing***

In April 2009, the Government introduced new rules for novice drivers under the Graduated Driver Licensing Scheme (GDLS). The initiative aims to reduce the number of serious injuries and deaths on Tasmanian Roads, especially those involving novice drivers.

The GDLS is a comprehensive approach to learning how to drive that specifically concentrates on providing novice drivers with improved practical driving skills, experience and good driving habits before they can be issued with a provisional licence. Under the scheme the learner period has been extended to a minimum of 12 months. The extended 12 month period has been split into two stages: L1 – which requires a minimum of three (3) continuous months, and L2 – which requires a minimum of nine (9) continuous months. There are two practical on-road driving assessments - one to progress from the L1 stage to the L2 stage and another to progress from the L2 stage to the P1 (provisional) stage. During the L2 stage, learners are required to log at least 50 supervised hours, but are encouraged to do as many hours as they can in this safe, supervised learner period so that they are better equipped to pass the second driving assessment and be safer solo drivers.

More information on the 2009 changes to learner driver requirements can be found on the Novice Licensing pages of the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) website at: [www.transport.tas.gov.au](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au)

### ***Learner Driver Mentor Programs***

To assist disadvantaged novice drivers the Road Safety Operations (RSO) Branch of DIER began working with community groups, as part of the Community Road Safety Partnerships (CRSP) Program, to explore options for developing supervisory driver programs that harness and draw

on community resources and capacity. The CRSP program was established in 2003 by DIER in partnership with participating local government authorities and community organisations. The first Learner Driver Mentor Programs (LDMPs) were developed in 2005 to assist socially and economically disadvantaged community members without ready access to an appropriate vehicle and/or supervisor driver. The early success of these initiatives created further interest and programs at various stages now operate across Tasmania.

A LDMP is a community run program providing disadvantaged learner drivers with the opportunity to develop their on-road driving experience. The primary focus is to help novice drivers who have limited opportunity to access a suitable vehicle and responsible supervisory driver to accrue on-road driving experience.

### ***Addressing the issues***

To better understand the access and equity issues that stem from the increase in supervisory driving hours, the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety – Queensland (CARRS-Q) was hired to consult different groups in the community about the needs of those who are disadvantaged. As a result of the consultation a resource kit was developed as an initiative under the strategic direction of ‘Increased Safety for Young Road Users’ in the *Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy 2007-2016*. The Learner Driver Mentor Program Resource Kit is available on the DIER web site and will be of assistance to any group establishing or seeking to establish a program.

### ***Seed Funding***

To support established LDMPs and develop new programs, the Tasmanian Government has allocated a once off \$200,000 for seed funding from the new Road Safety Levy and is offering community groups in Tasmania the opportunity to apply for seed funding. There are two categories of funding available:

Category 1 - Establishment of a new Learner Driver Mentor Program. Eligible applicants may apply for up to \$25,000.

Category 2 - Consolidation or expansion of an existing Learner Driver Mentor Program. Eligible applicants may apply for up to \$20,000.

Funding is only for program development, consolidation or expansion and sustainability of programs will be a key consideration in determining the allocation of funds. The sustainability of LDMPs primarily relies on the ongoing and continued financial and practical support of the community. Developing and maintaining relationships with businesses, local councils, advocacy groups and individuals is central to keeping programs running.

Each application will be evaluated and prioritised based on how well it meets the selection criteria. Some applications may not receive the full amount sought and some may be unsuccessful in receiving funding.

### ***Target group***

LDMPs in Tasmania were originally set up to assist young Learner Drivers without access to a vehicle and/or suitable licensed driver to achieve the 50 hours of supervised driving. This remains the primary criteria for a learner to be eligible to participate in an LDMP. However, there is scope for LDMP groups to help Learner Drivers of all ages who are experiencing other, usually related, forms of 'disadvantage', such as Learner Drivers who are: socially isolated or living in a remote area (no public transport); from fractured families; from an area of low socioeconomic status /high unemployment; or experiencing language and literacy problems.

### ***Process Review***

As this is the first time that dedicated seed funding for Learner Driver Mentor Programs has been offered by the Tasmanian Government the information and application process will be reviewed at the end of the funding cycle to identify improvements for any future funding of this or similar programs.

### ***Application Process***

If you have questions or need clarification about any aspect of the application process the Road Safety Operations Branch is available to assist you and can be contacted on (03) 62 335290.

### ***Funding limit***

DIER will consider applications for up to: \$25,000 for Category 1 and; \$20,000 for Category 2.

## ***Eligibility***

Only applications from eligible organisations will be considered.

To be eligible for seed funding organisations **must** meet all of the following criteria:

- Not for profit
- Incorporated, or auspiced by an incorporated organisation
- Based in Tasmania
- Set up to address an identified need or opportunity aimed at improving outcomes for disadvantaged learner drivers
- Is accessible to all disadvantaged members of the identified target group

*And may also be:*

- Already established
- Preparing to become established
- Affiliated with Local Government or Non Government organisations

DIER will not consider applications for seed funding from:

- State and Australian Government agencies or affiliated organisations
- Individuals
- Learner Driver Mentor Programs that:
  - Operate for a limited period
  - Require payment (cash or in-kind) from participants
  - Allow volunteer mentors to receive reward for providing mentor driving services

## ***Conditions of seed funding***

- Projects must not be for profit or reward
- Projects must be covered by public liability insurance
- Funding is only to be used for LDMP
- Funding may be available for wages for extra administrative tasks
- Equipment purchase may be funded where ongoing use is able to be demonstrated
- Projects requiring recurrent funding from Government will not be funded

## ***Submitting your Application***

The Application Form is to be completed in full, signed and returned to DIER as instructed in the Application Form. **Applications close on Monday 7 June 2010.**

## ***Assessment of your Application***

Each application for seed funding will be:

- Reviewed to ensure that the application is complete and that eligibility and conditions of seed funding have been met; and
- Evaluated by an assessment panel, using the table below, to determine how well the application meets the selection criteria in the Application Form and to determine if / how much funding should be allocated.
- Advised of the outcome by the end of June 2010 at the latest.

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Sign a deed of release for the funding
- Make records relating to the project accessible as required, and;
- Provide a written report on the completion of the project.

### ***Application checklist***

Make sure you meet the following requirements before submitting your application:

<b>Score</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Full Description</b>
5	Superior	High achievement of the requirements specified in the selection criteria. Demonstrated strengths, negligible errors, weaknesses or omissions, which may be acceptable as offered.
4	Good	Sound achievement of the requirements specified in the selection criteria. Some errors, risks, weaknesses or omissions, which can be corrected/overcome with minimum effort.
3	Adequate	Reasonable achievement of the requirements specified in the selection criteria. Some errors, risks, weaknesses or omissions, which are possible to correct/overcome and make acceptable.
2	Poor to deficient	Minimal achievement of the requirements specified in the selection criteria. Existence of numerous errors, risks, weaknesses or omissions, which are difficult to correct/overcome and make acceptable.
1	Unacceptable	No achievement of the requirements specified in the selection criteria – totally deficient.

- ✓ You are eligible to apply for funding;
- ✓ The proposal has been discussed with other groups within your community;
- ✓ You have referred to the LDMP Resource Kit in preparing your application; and
- ✓ You have responded to every question in the application form
- ✓ A person with the relevant authority to commit your community to a LDMP has signed the application form.