

Graduated Driver Licensing Phase 1: The Facts

Background

In 2006 the Northern Territory Government accepted 21 recommendations put forward by the NT Road Safety Taskforce. Recommendation 12(a) provided for the establishment of a comprehensive Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) scheme. To be implemented in two phases, the initial measures, Phase 1, came into effect on 1 July 2007.

What will change?

On 1 July 2007 the following **Learner Licence** changes were implemented:-

1. All Learner Licences - class C (car) and class R(e) (motorcycle) will be issued for 24 months instead of the previous 12 months, or 3 months, respectively. The cost will remain at \$18.00.
2. Learner Licences, issued from 1 July 2007, must be held for 6 consecutive months immediately prior to booking, or undertaking, any driving test conducted by MVR. This also applies to the final assessment of any approved training program delivered by Registered Trainers.
3. No mobile phone use permitted in any form (including hands free) while in control of a vehicle.

On 1 July 2007 the following **Provisional Licence** changes were implemented:-

1. An appropriate Learner Licence, issued from 1 July 2007, must have been held for 6 consecutive months immediately prior to the provisional licence being issued.
2. Applicants who have not yet attained 25 years of age, a 2 year provisional period will apply.
3. Provisional Licence applicants under 25 years of age will no longer have a licence tenure option. Only the 2 year Licence tenure option of \$36.00 will be available.
4. Applicants 25 years of age or older, a 1 year provisional period will apply. Current licence tenure options (ie 1-5 years) will be available.
5. No mobile phone use permitted in any form (including hands free) whilst in control of a vehicle.

No driving test bookings will be accepted for applicants who have not held the required Learner Licence (issued after 1 July 2007) for at least 6 consecutive months immediately prior to payment date for the booking.

What impact will these changes have? Q & A

- Q. Will there be a change to the way I can make a Test Booking from 1 July 2007?**
A. Yes. If your Learner Licence was issued after 1 July 2007 you will need to have held the necessary Learner Licence for 6 consecutive months before you can make a Test Booking.
- Q. What if my Learner Licence expires? Will I have to re-commence the 6 month period?**
A. Yes, unless you re-qualify and have it renewed prior to the actual expiry date.
- Q. What if my Learner Licence is suspended or cancelled? Will I have to re-commence the mandatory 6 month period?**
A. Yes. If your Learner Licence is re-issued after 1 July 2007, to progress from your Learner Licence there is a minimum qualifying period of 6 consecutive months. If this period is broken by way of suspension, cancellation or expiry, the 6 month qualifying period will recommence.
- Q. I am a DTAL Student, am I still eligible for a Provisional Licence before I turn 16 years and 6 months of age?**
A. No. For Learner Licences issued from 1 July 2007 you must have held a Learner Licence for 6 consecutive months to be eligible to book a Practical Test for a Provisional Licence.
- Q. If I complete the DTAL Program, am I still required to have held my Learner Licence for 6 consecutive months before I can get my Provisional Licence?**
A. Yes. For Learner Licences issued from 1 July 2007 the 6 month rule will apply to everyone.
- Q. Can I do a training course with a Registered Training Organisation to get my Provisional Licence earlier?**
A. No. If you are participating in an Approved Training Program and your Learner Licence was issued after 1 July 2007, you will still need to have held your Learner Licence for 6 consecutive months before you are eligible for your final driving assessment.
- Q. If I am under 25 years of age and get my Provisional Licence issued before 1 July 2007, will I have to be Provisional for 2 years?**
A. No. Any Provisional Licence issued before 1 July 2007 will remain Provisional for 12 months, unless it is cancelled and re-obtained after 1 July 2007 (and you are still under 25).
- Q. What if my Provisional Licence is suspended?**
A. Any period of suspension will be added to your current Provisional Licence period.
- Q. What if my Provisional Licence is cancelled?**
A. At re-issue your provisional period will start over again.
- Q. What if I turn 25 while still on my Provisional Licence, will my provisional period be reduced to 12 months?**
A. No. The provisional period applicable to you is determined by your age at time of application. Only those who are 25 years of age at time of application will be issued a 12 month Provisional Licence.

For any further queries regarding the introduction of Phase 1 of the Graduated Driver Licence scheme, please contact MVR using the details below.

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