



# 1. Obtaining a Northern Territory Driver Licence

# General Information

Application forms can be obtained, completed and submitted at any Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) outlet (includes MVR offices, agencies and police stations in remote communities). MVR offices and agencies are listed at the back of this book.

## Evidence of Identity and Residency

You must provide evidence of your identity and Northern Territory residency whenever doing driver licensing transactions.

Full details of acceptable Evidence of Identity and Residency documents are available in Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin G8 - Evidence of Identity and Evidence of Residency for Individuals, which can be obtained from any MVR office or on the Internet at: [www.mvr.nt.gov.au](http://www.mvr.nt.gov.au)

## Medical Fitness to Drive a Motor Vehicle

The responsibility for issuing, renewing, suspending or cancelling a person's licence (including a conditional licence) lies ultimately with the Driver Licensing Authority (MVR). Licensing decisions are based on a full consideration of relevant factors relating to health and driving performance.

The *Northern Territory Motor Vehicles Act* requires that all drivers or intending drivers notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles if they have any medical condition (including disability, mental illness and eyesight) that may affect their ability to safely and legally drive motor vehicles. This mandatory reporting requirement also applies to health professionals, who must report any affected patients.

If you have any doubt, it is suggested that you call the Motor Vehicle Registry Info line 1300 654 628 (for the cost of a local call) or consult your health professional for advice. A medical condition does not necessarily mean that you cannot be licensed. In reality, very few conditions prevent the issuing of a driver licence.

# General Information

## Organ Donation

In previous years in many parts of Australia it was possible to register your intention to be an organ donor on your driver's licence. This has now changed (except in NSW) and the place to register your wishes is the Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR).

Organ Donor information brochures are available at MVR outlets or from Medicare Australia offices. You can also register online at [www.medicareaustralia.com.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.com.au) or call 1800 777 203 for a registration brochure.

Before making a decision on organ donation and registering your consent on the AODR, think about it carefully, and talk it through with your family. You need to consider their thoughts too.

If you would like some more information before making your choice, please contact LifeNet NT (the organ donation agency for the Northern Territory) on (08) 8922 8786.

## Demerit Points

A demerit points scheme operates in the NT with all drivers subject to action against their licences if they reach a threshold of 12 points in 3 years. In addition, Learner and Provisional drivers also have a threshold of 5 points in 1 year. For further details see MVR Information Bulletin L28 or go to [www.mvr.nt.gov.au](http://www.mvr.nt.gov.au) or phone 1300 364 924.

## Licence Photographs

When you are issued with an NT driver licence, your image (photo) will be digitally stored by Motor Vehicle Registry. The stored image may be used for subsequent renewals provided your appearance has not changed significantly.

# General Information

## Privacy

The information you provide to MVR to obtain a driver licence is collected for the purpose of compliance with and enforcement of the *Northern Territory Motor Vehicles Act*.

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles is required to collect the information by section 92 of the *Motor Vehicles Act*. The Registrar adheres to the principles detailed in the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's Privacy Statement and the *Information Act*. Further privacy information can be obtained from MVR Offices and agencies listed at the back of this book or on the internet at [www.mvr.nt.gov.au](http://www.mvr.nt.gov.au)

## Transferring an Interstate Licence

Drivers visiting from other Australian jurisdictions are deemed to be NT residents after three months, and must therefore transfer to an NT licence. If your interstate licence is current, this may usually be done at no cost, as any time remaining on the interstate licence is transferred to the new NT licence to a maximum of 5 years.

In most cases, identical licence classes and conditions will apply; however there may be individual cases where items such as provisional requirements are not identical in all jurisdictions. In all such cases, NT rules will be applied.

You should also be aware that demerit points accrued in other states/territories may also affect your NT licence.

## Change of Address

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles must be notified of address changes for licence holders and registered vehicle owners within 14 days.

## Carrying Your Licence

All drivers should carry their licence with them at all times whilst driving a motor vehicle.

Failure to produce your licence on demand is an offence for the following licence holders:

- learner licence;
- provisional licence; or
- heavy vehicle licence.

# Obtaining a Northern Territory Driver Licence

Acquiring a licence to drive or ride is the first step to a lifetime of driving or motorcycling that brings with it both responsibilities and opportunities.

Driver's responsibilities are clearly stated throughout this booklet and it is expected that you will use your vehicle with efficiency, safety, courtesy and commonsense at all times.

The opportunities presented to licence holders are many and varied and include job opportunities, the ability to visit friends, go shopping and take part in a wealth of recreation activities.

If you lose your licence by failing to meet your responsibilities, the consequences could be serious, as many opportunities will disappear. For example you could lose your job, lose your independence and suffer considerable inconvenience in your daily life.

## Obtaining a Learner Licence – L Plates

There are 3 ways that candidates may obtain a learner licence in the NT – either through the DTAL Program, another approved training course, or by passing a Road Rules Theory Test at a MVR outlet. Candidates must be at least 16 years of age, and all licence applicants who are not yet 17 years of age are required to provide parent/guardian consent before a learner licence will be issued.

## Driver Training and Licensing (DTAL) Program

The Driver Training and Licensing (DTAL) Program is a subsidised driver training program administered by the Department of Employment, Education and Training, and proudly sponsored by TIO's Motor Accidents Compensation. The Program is designed to provide 16 - 18 year old Territorians with fundamental road user awareness and the preliminary practical skills to help them become safe, proficient and skilful drivers in the community. Please visit the DTAL website for further information at: [www.deet.nt.gov.au/training/students/dtal/](http://www.deet.nt.gov.au/training/students/dtal/)

## Approved Training Courses

Approved training courses may be run from time to time by Approved Training Providers, usually on a user pays basis but occasionally with DTAL assistance. For class R (Rider) the only approved training option available is the Motorcyclist Education Training And Licensing (METAL) program run by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and administered through MVR outlets.

Learner riders can choose to undertake the METAL rider training program or undertake a Motorcycle Operator Skills Test (MOST) conducted by the MVR.

# Obtaining a Northern Territory Driver Licence

## The Road Rules Theory Test

The Road Rules Theory Test can be undertaken at most MVR outlets and police outstations and consists of 30 multiple choice questions based on the information provided in this book. Some sample questions appear on page 8 of this book.

## Evidence of Identity and Residency

Prior to attempting the Road Rules Theory Test for the first time, you are required to lodge an application for a learner licence and in the process satisfy Evidence of Identity and Evidence of Residency (EOI and EOR) requirements. Evidence of Identity must be provided at each subsequent appearance. For details of EOI and EOR requirements, see Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin G8 - Evidence of Identity and Evidence of Residency for Individuals, which can be obtained from any MVR office or on the Internet at: [www.mvr.nt.gov.au](http://www.mvr.nt.gov.au)

## Rules For Learner Licence Holders

As well as complying with all road rules and traffic laws, there are some additional requirements for learner licence holders:

- you may not exceed 80 km/h unless under the direct supervision of an authorised driving/motorcycle instructor conducting a training program approved by the Registrar;
- you must observe zero blood alcohol requirements at all times whilst driving;
- for class C (car) you must be accompanied, in the front passenger seat nearest to you by a fully licensed (not provisional) driver at all times whilst driving;
- you must carry your learner licence at all times whilst driving;
- you must display approved 'L' plates clearly visible to the front and rear of your car, or to the rear only of a motorcycle; and
- you must not use a mobile phone in any form whilst driving, including hands free devices or texting.

# Obtaining a Northern Territory Driver Licence

## The driver accompanying a learner driver

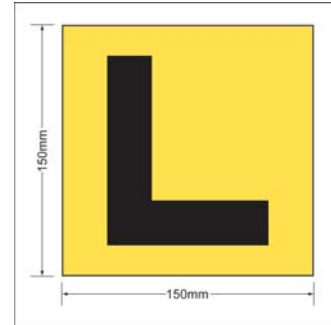
Your "licensed driver" must adhere to the following rules at all times whilst the learner is driving the vehicle (including parking practice):

- must be seated immediately next to the learner (except for class R);
- must hold a current full driver licence (not provisional);
- must comply with zero blood alcohol requirement if a professional driving instructor, or be less than 0.05% if a fully licensed driver; and
- must supervise the learner and take responsibility for learner's actions, as the licensed driver is deemed to be the driver for most legal purposes.

## 'L' plates

The minimum size for 'L' plates is defined in the diagram below. An 'L' plate must be displayed and clearly visible from the front and rear of the vehicle (rear only for motorcycles). 'L' plates must not be displayed when the driver of the vehicle is not a learner driver.

'L' Plates must have the letter 'L' painted in black on a yellow background.





# Obtaining a Northern Territory Driver Licence

## Question 3

When approaching a roundabout, you must:

- (A) Give way to vehicles already in the roundabout, then proceed in a clockwise direction.
- (B) Enter the roundabout only when it is clear of all traffic.
- (C) Reduce speed to 30 km/h and give way to all vehicles on your left.
- (D) Only give way to police and emergency vehicles.

## Question 4

Where a seat belt is fitted and the vehicle is in forward motion:

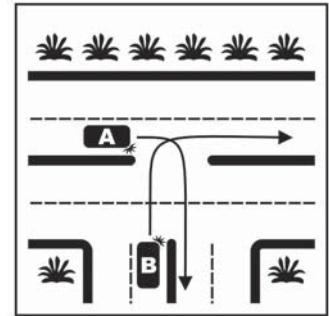
- (A) It is compulsory to wear the seat belt when using that seat.
- (B) The seat belt must be properly adjusted and securely fastened.
- (C) The belt can only be used by one person.
- (D) All of the above.

## Question 5

At this junction, which vehicle may turn first?

- (A) Vehicle "A"
- (B) Vehicle "B"

Answers  
1 - C  
2 - D  
3 - A  
4 - D  
5 - A



# Obtaining a Northern Territory Driver Licence

## Obtaining a Provisional Licence

In the Northern Territory, your very first licence will be provisional for 2 years (1 year if you are 25 years or older), and if at any time during that time your licence is cancelled or suspended, the full provisional period starts all over again on reissue. Also, in some cases, a court may order an additional provisional period when the licence holder is convicted of certain traffic offences.

There are 3 ways that candidates may obtain a provisional licence in the NT – by passing a practical driving test at a MVR outlet, by successfully completing the METAL Basic and Intermediate courses (motorcycles and mopeds only) or through another approved training course.

Whether you undertake the MVR practical test or an approved training course, the basic knowledge and skills you must achieve will be the similar. Obtaining your provisional licence will ultimately be based on your ability to demonstrate consistent and appropriate use of the System of Vehicle Control, as described in the Learner Driver's Guide at the back of this book. Skills required include an understanding of the major controls of a motor vehicle, completing certain low speed manoeuvres, safe and efficient driving in busy traffic and at higher speeds, observation skills and dealing with hazards.

Driver assessment processes have been designed to be fair and consistent.

## Getting Instruction

How you are taught to drive is extremely important, as your instructor lays the foundations for your future driving development. For that reason, it may be best to be taught by a professional driving instructor who is aware of modern driving practices and training techniques. Driving instructors must hold an appropriate licence which may be identified by checking for a 'd' (driving instructor) endorsement on their licence. The 'd' endorsement on the instructor's licence signifies that the instructor has satisfied the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that he/she has the knowledge and skills to effectively teach up to date defensive knowledge and roadcraft skills to help you obtain your licence.

It is also a good idea to get as much practice as possible between professional lessons by asking parents or other relatives or friends who are fully licensed to take you out to practice each new skill so that you will be better prepared for your next lesson. In this way, you may maximise the benefits obtained from each paid lesson and minimise the cost of obtaining a licence.

# Obtaining a Northern Territory Driver Licence

Learner drivers while under direct supervision have a low crash risk level. Crash risk in the first year of unsupervised driving is at least 20 times higher than during supervised driving.

It is suggested that learner drivers who choose not to undertake an approved training program consult the Yellow Pages phone directory for a comprehensive listing of driving instructors. For your own peace of mind, important factors in selecting a driving instructor include making sure the instructor holds Professional Indemnity and Public Liability Insurance and is fully qualified to provide the training and/or licensing service you seek.

## Driver Training and Licensing (DTAL) Program

The Driver Training and Licensing (DTAL) Program is a subsidised driver training program administered by the Department of Employment, Education and Training, and proudly sponsored by TIO's Motor Accidents Compensation. The Program is designed to provide 16 - 18 year old Territorians with a fundamental road user awareness and the preliminary practical skills to help them become safe, proficient and skilful drivers in the community.

Students who have received their training with the DTAL Program are required to successfully complete MVR's practical driving test to obtain their Provisional Licence.

For more information regarding the DTAL Program please visit their website at:

[www.deet.nt.gov.au/training/students/dtal/](http://www.deet.nt.gov.au/training/students/dtal/)

## Other Approved Training Courses

For class C (car) licences, there are a few options available through approved Registered Training Organisations (RTOs).

For class R (rider) the Motorcyclist Education Training And Licensing (METAL) program is run by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and administered through MVR outlets.

# Obtaining a Northern Territory Driver Licence

## Practical Driving Test – Motor Vehicle Registry Staff or Police in Remote Communities

The practical driving test is conducted by specially trained MVR staff, or police in remote areas. Your practical driving test should be conducted at the MVR outlet or remote police station nearest to your usual place of residence. In special circumstances you can ask for an exemption from this requirement, for example if you are studying or employed full time away from your usual place of residence.

The key points of the practical driving test option are:

- test must be booked and paid for in advance at a MVR outlet or police outstation;
- you must have held an appropriate learner licence for a continuous period of at least 6 months immediately prior to:
  - Test fee payment date; and
  - Test date.
- you must bring your current NT learner licence with you on the test;

- you must provide a registered and roadworthy vehicle of the correct classification for the test. The vehicle must have enough seat belts for the driver, licensed driver accompanying the test (if you choose to have someone in addition to the licence testing officer accompany you on the test) and the licence testing officer.

## Rules for Provisional Licence Holders

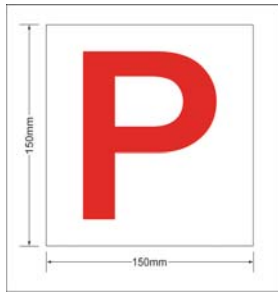
As well as complying with all road rules and traffic laws, there are some additional conditions for provisional licence holders:

- you must not exceed 100 km/h even though higher limits for other road users may apply in some places;
- you must observe zero blood alcohol requirements at all times whilst driving;
- you must carry your provisional licence at all times whilst driving;
- you must display approved 'P' plates clearly visible to the front and rear of your car, or to the rear only of a motorcycle; and
- you must not use a mobile phone in any form whilst driving, including hands free devices or texting.

# Obtaining a Northern Territory Driver Licence

## 'P' Plates

The minimum size for 'P' Plates is defined in the diagram and consists of a red letter 'P' against a white background. 'P' plates must be displayed and clearly visible to the front and rear of the vehicle (rear only for motorcycles).



## Z condition

On completion of your provisional period, you must continue to observe the zero Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) requirement for a further 12 months or until you turn 25, whichever is sooner.

## Learning to Ride a Motorcycle

The Motorcyclist Education Training And Licensing (METAL) program offers non-compulsory defensive rider training for intending motorcyclists. Funded as a road safety initiative by the Territory Insurance Office (TIO), METAL provides tuition for both learner and advanced riders.

Courses are designed to equip riders with the practical skills and road-craft knowledge to remain safe on our roads. METAL instructors are selected from experienced motorcyclists within the wider community and are specialist trained and licensed for this purpose.

To obtain full details including prices and availability please check with your nearest Motor Vehicle Registry outlet.

