

HOW TO GET A

DRIVERS LICENSE

THE RIGHT WAY



www.pinnacledrivingschool.com.au



How To Get A Drivers License

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Table of Contents

Legal Disclaimers	2
Introduction	4
Chapter 1: How to Get a Driver’s Licence in the ACT	6
Chapter 2a: How to Get a Learner Driver’s Licence.....	7
The Road Ready Course.....	7
Where Can I Take the Course?.....	8
What Documentation Do I Need?.....	8
The Knowledge Test	9
Chapter 2b: How to Get a Provisional Driver’s Licence	10
Competency Training and Assessment System.....	10
The One-Off Government Test.....	12
Chapter 3: Moving Beyond the P Plates: The Road Ready Plus Course ...	13
Special Provisions for NSW Learner Drivers.....	13
Chapter 4: The Value of a Professional Instructor.....	14
The Benefits of Being Trained by a Qualified Instructor	14
Chapter 5: Conclusion.....	15
Chapter 6: Why Pinnacle is Your Best Bet.....	16
“7 Reasons Why You Should Choose Pinnacle to Learn How to Drive”	16
Reason #1: Learn in a Great Setting.....	16
Reason #2: Learn at Your Own Pace	16
Reason #3: Customer Service Oriented	16
Reason #4: Learn on the Latest Models of Vehicles.....	16
Reason #5: The Australian Driver Trainers Association stamp of approval.....	17
Reason #6: Pick-up and Drop-Offs	17
Reason #7: Flexibility	17

How To Get A Drivers License

THE RIGHT WAY

Introduction

Getting a driver's licence isn't simply a matter of being able to pass the test because having a driver's licence is a great responsibility, both towards yourself and other people in traffic and pedestrians.

“How to Get a Driver's Licence the Right Way!”

While having a driver's licence might signify a rite of passage when one turns 17, the responsibility associated with it should not be taken lightly especially when....

17 year old provisional licence holders are four times more likely to end up in a fatal car crash compared to drivers over 26...

...and they also represent 36% of total road fatalities in a year, despite the fact that they only make up 15% of the total drivers out on the road.

These statistics, including the fact that a person is 100 times more likely to die in a car crash than in an airplane crash, make driving one of the riskiest modes of transportation...

Are You Willing to Risk Your Child's Life for a Few Dollars?

Many people think that they can save a few dollars by teaching their children to drive themselves. However, is the risk of your child dying in a car crash really worth the few dollars you might save? Children have a nasty habit of not really listening to their parents, whereas a qualified driving instructor represents a different type of authority your child is more likely to listen to. Additionally, professional instructors have many years of experience dealing with beginner drivers, no matter their age.

How To Get A Drivers License

THE RIGHT WAY

If you truly want to ensure that you or your child won't become statistics then...

Pinnacle's Qualified and Experienced Instructors Will Teach You How to Drive Effectively and Safely!

At Pinnacle, our goal is to ensure that you have a pleasant learning experience while learning how to become an excellent, safe driver which will guarantee you the confidence you need to tackle the roads.

Pinnacle Makes Everything Easier

So, to get you started on right path, this whitepaper will provide you with all the information you need to know to be able to get a driver's licence in the ACT. We walk you through the entire process, covering everything from how to get your learner licence, including a brief look at the Road Ready Course and the Knowledge Test, to what skills you need to acquire to pass the government one-off test and much more. This comprehensive guide will ensure you are fully prepared to start on the journey that obtaining your full driver's licence entails and Pinnacle will be there with you every step of the way to ensure you have a great experience doing it!

How To Get A Drivers License

THE RIGHT WAY

Chapter 1: How to Get a Driver's Licence in the ACT

As a new driver with no experience, you will have to go through five different stages before you can get your final driver's licence in the ACT.

1. The pre-learner stage is for anyone under 15 years and nine months of age where the student can learn to co-pilot a vehicle with an experienced driver. Note, though, that you can't actually drive the car. You will only be allowed to be a passenger and the goal of this stage is to familiarize yourself with driving and what happens on the road.
2. The next stage is getting your learner driver's licence and you must be at least 15 yrs and nine months of age to qualify. Getting your learner driver's licence is conditional upon completing the Road Ready course and passing the Road Rules Knowledge Test.
3. Once you have your learner driver's licence you will have to physically learn how to drive. It is recommended that you work both with professional driving instructors, such as Pinnacle's excellent instructors, as well as with your parents or other supervising drivers to ensure you gain as much driving experience as possible. Once you have mastered the art of driving, you will then be able to apply for your provisional licence.
4. The provisional driver's licence can only be obtained by drivers over the age of 17. This can be done either by taking a one-off government driving test or through the Competency Based Training and Assessment System, also referred to as the Log Book System.
5. Subsequently, to obtain your final driver's licence and be allowed to remove the P plates from your vehicle, you either have to wait three years or take the Road Ready Plus course and pass the test.

How To Get A Drivers License

THE RIGHT WAY

Chapter 2a: How to Get a Learner Driver's Licence

The first step to get your driver's licence is to take the Road Ready Course and pass the Road Rules Knowledge Test, which is a computer-based examination. This will allow you to obtain your learner driver's licence so that you can be allowed out on the road to learn and practice driving skills. The other condition you need to meet to qualify for a learner driver's licence is that you must be at least 15 years and 9 months old.

The Road Ready Course

The Road Ready Course involves is an educational program designed to teach people safe driving and about the various hazards you will encounter on the road. The program includes a number of group tasks, research assignments, sessions to teach you effective decision-making as well as statistical analysis. However, the course does not cover road rules and regulations, which are require for the Road Rules Knowledge Test which is why you will have to study the handbook before attending the course.

To be able to qualify for a learner driver's licence you will have to complete the entire workshop, which is 10 hours long. If you miss some of the sessions, you won't be allowed to complete the course until you make up the missing sessions.

Passing the course is more than simply learning as your level of participation will also be assessed. Therefore, the more positive input you have in the discussions, the higher the likelihood of you passing the test.

Once you have successfully completed the course and passed the test, the certificates are valid for two years. After this time, if you haven't obtained your learner licence, you will have to retake the test and complete the course again.

For those whose learner driver's licence has expired, they will only have to retake the Road Rules Knowledge Test.

How To Get A Drivers License

THE RIGHT WAY

Where Can I Take the Course?

If you are still in school, most secondary schools in the ACT offer the Road Ready Course as part of their curriculum. However, if you have already finished school then you can always take the course at any Road Ready Centre.

What Documentation Do I Need?

When you first attend the course, you will need to following documents:

- A completed ACT Application for a Driver Licence Form, which will be provided when you make your booking;
- 2 passport size photos;
- 3 forms of I.D., required to prove your identity as well as proof of residency. These three documents have to be comprised of:
 - One primary proof of identity, such as your Australian birth certificate, Australian Citizenship Certificate or Naturalisation Certificate, an Australian or Overseas Passport, among others;
 - A secondary proof of identity such as a Medicare card, a credit or debit card with your name embossed and a signature, a student identity document, etc
 - Proof of residency – required for all overseas and interstate licence holders - which can be in the form of a contract of purchase, a current lease or rental contract for the premises that is the applicant's primary residence, a current vehicle registration certificate, utility accounts and so on.

Once you have completed the course, you will have to take the same documents proving your identity and residence along with your certificates to be issued a learner driver's licence.

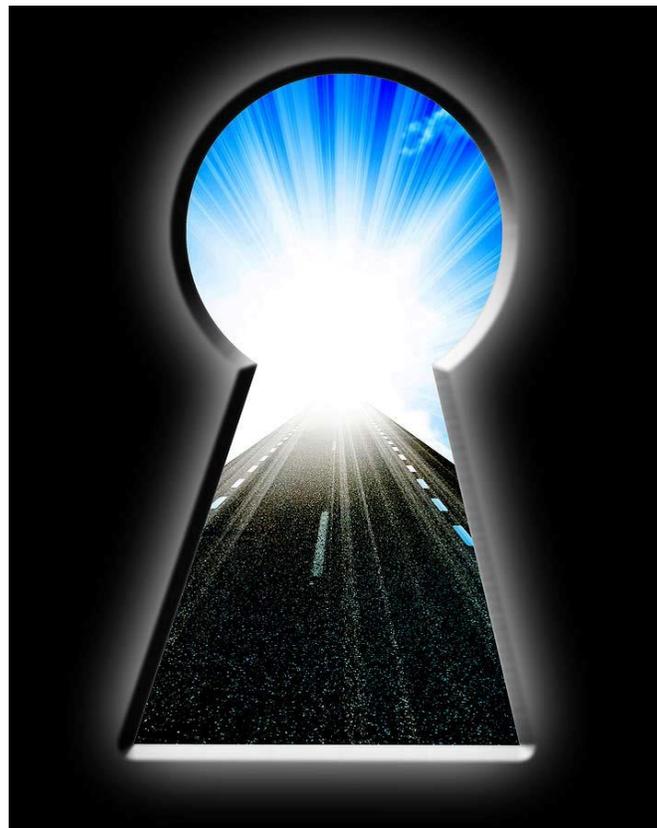
How To Get A Drivers License

THE RIGHT WAY

The Knowledge Test

While most of the information required to pass the Knowledge Test is available in the ACT Road Rule Handbook, you have to be prepared for a number of questions that test your common sense and good judgement. The test is designed to ensure that applicants have correctly understood the information and are able to apply it in real life situations, rather than simply being a case of learning by rote.

The test consists of 35 multiple choice questions of which a portion are mandatory knowledge and no errors are allowed while the remainder test general knowledge and 4 mistakes are permitted. It is recommended that you take practice the practice test on the www.roadready.act.gov.au website before taking the Knowledge Test.



How To Get A Drivers License

THE RIGHT WAY

Chapter 2b: How to Get a Provisional Driver's Licence

You can go about obtaining your provisional driver's licence in one of two ways. You can either use the Competency Based Training and Assessment Scheme (CBT&A) or you can take a one-off test with a Government Examiner. However, even if you do opt for the latter, it is still recommended that you have some driving experience before going for a practical assessment of your driving skills.

While the learner driver's licence is valid for two years, you will not be able to obtain a provisional driver's licence sooner than six months from the date you are issued the learner licence.

Competency Training and Assessment System

The CBT&A is an alternative to the one-off driving test conducted by a Government Licence Examiner. This scheme involves learner drivers being assessed by an Accredited Driving Instructor on 22 different driver competencies.

These competencies are the same ones that you would be assessed for in the Government test and they are:

1. Vehicle Controls
2. Cabin Drill
3. Starting Up Procedure
4. Moving Off Procedure
5. Changing Gears
6. Steering
7. Left and Right Turns
8. Control of Speed

How To Get A Drivers License

THE RIGHT WAY

9. Slowing Procedure
10. Stopping Procedure
11. Hill Starts
12. Roundabouts, Road Markings, Crossings, Give Way Rules, Intersections, Traffic Lights
13. Reversing
14. Right Angle Parking
15. Reverse Parallel Parking
16. Three Types of U Turns
17. Three Point Turns and Other Types of Turns in the Road
18. Changing Lanes, Entering Freeways, Merging
19. Overtaking
20. Observational Skills, Your Capacity to Identify Hazards, Visual Scanning and Searching
21. Compliance with the Vehicle Control System
22. Driving on a Busy Road and an Unfamiliar Road.

The CBT&A scheme is usually the recommended choice when you are first learning to drive because it allows you to be trained by an Accredited Instructor. This approach to getting your licence has multiple advantages:

- It is a comprehensive training system that covers all issues of good driving behaviour;
- You won't have a deadline to learn everything you need to so you can work at your own pace;
- You won't have to suffer the humiliation of failing because if you find any task difficult, the instructor can provide more training in another driving lesson and then reassess or your performance;
- You will gain valuable skills by learning to drive under any weather and traffic conditions;
- You will find it easier to learn how to drive due to the fact that you are undergoing a structured training programme with a highly experienced, qualified instructor.

How To Get A Drivers License

THE RIGHT WAY

The exact duration of the scheme differs from driver to driver but if you wish to get your licence through the Logbook System then you will need at least 6 lessons. However, the Pinnacle team's experience shows that the average time a student needs to learn how to drive properly is anywhere from 10 to 15 lessons. Since the goal is to learn how to drive effectively and be road safe, not only to get your licence, taking more lessons is the smart approach.

The One-Off Government Test

If you wish to take the one-off Government Test, you can do so at any time, but it is recommended that you have at least 50 hours of driving practice under your belt. The tests are conducted from the Motor Registry in Dickson or the Tuggeranong Government Shop Front.

To ensure that you pass your test with flying colours, Pinnacle's driving instructors can provide a full assessment of whether or not you are ready to take the test as well as recommendations on areas you should improve before taking the test to obtain your provisional driver's licence.

Additionally, you should be aware that there are certain requirements for the vehicle you will be using in the test including the fact that it should be mechanically sound, roadworthy, clean, registered and the tyres must have a minimum of 1.5 mm tread depth, among others.

However, if you do not own a vehicle at all or simply want to make sure that the vehicle you are taking the test in complies with regulations, Pinnacle provides use of their vehicles, making life much easier for you.

Chapter 3: Moving Beyond the P Plates: The Road Ready Plus Course

Once you have successfully completed the Competency Training and Assessment Scheme or passed the government driving test, you will be able to obtain your provisional driver's licence. You will have to drive with this provisional licence for three years, while also displaying P plates on your vehicle. The provisional licence allows you to accumulate a maximum of four demerit points before you lose your licence, so caution is advised.

However, you can get your full licence sooner while also increasing your demerit point limit to eight by taking the Road Ready Plus course. Note, though, that the Road Ready Plus course can only be undertaken six months after you get your provisional licence. If you are 26 or older, you won't have to take the course as you can automatically remove your P plates after six months.

The Road Ready Plus course itself is optional and only takes approximately 5 hours. It is meant as a support tool for new drivers as it involves groups of new drivers meeting and taking part in facilitated discussion workshops that cover the experiences of driving.

Special Provisions for NSW Learner Drivers

NSW learner drivers also have to sit a one off test the Queanbeyan or Yass RTA to get their Provisional Driver's Licence. This is in addition to having completed at least 50 hours of driving instruction that is registered in their log book with all the required competencies signed for completion.

Pinnacle has qualified and experienced instructors to help you obtain your NSW provisional driver's licence as they are fully licensed to train drivers using the NSW Log Book System.

How To Get A Drivers License

THE RIGHT WAY

Chapter 4: The Value of a Professional Instructor

Many people are tempted to forego professional instruction in favour of getting free lessons from their friends or family when they are first learning to drive. However, the few dollars you save could be the difference between life or death simply because if you aren't being taught by a trained instructor you could learn unsafe habits, believe you are more prepared to face the road than you really are or even learn wrong information.

The Benefits of Being Trained by a Qualified Instructor

The biggest benefit of being trained by a qualified instructor has to be the fact that students are more likely to listen to an instructor and accept their teachings than family or friends, a fact which is especially true for teenagers. However, there are many more advantages to learning how to drive from a qualified instructor, including:

- A professional instructor can be more objective in their assessment of your skills and the areas where you require improvement;
- An instructor has more experience training beginners and can properly judge the best pace for you to ensure you grasp all the skills required to make you a safe and responsible driver;
- A comprehensive training programme is structured in such a fashion that you are first introduced to basic driving skills and only once you are ready will you be taught more complex skills, which will ensure your success;
- Professional instructors are always up-to-date with all the latest traffic laws and regulations and can show you how they apply in real-life situations.

How To Get A Drivers License

THE RIGHT WAY

Chapter 5: Conclusion

Obtaining your driver's licence can be a lengthy, complicated process which is why having someone experienced and knowledgeable in your corner can be such an advantage. Not only do you have to know how the entire process works but at the same time you need to master driving skills properly.

While, initially, it might seem a better option to choose a cheaper alternative, namely asking a friend or a member of your family for driving training, there is really no substitute for a qualified and experienced driving instructor.

Pinnacle makes it easy for anyone to get their driver's licence, no matter their driving capabilities. So, whether you are a new driver who has difficulty mastering the basics or are simply looking for a refresher course because you haven't driven in a while, Pinnacle is the solution for you. With top notch instructors that are registered with the Australian Driver Trainers Association and a focus on customer satisfaction, you will be more than pleased with your results.



Chapter 6: Why Pinnacle is Your Best Bet

“7 Reasons Why You Should Choose Pinnacle to Learn How to Drive”

Reason #1: Learn in a Great Setting

Pinnacle offers a comfortable learning environment with friendly instructors allowing you to relax and enjoy the driving experience which will provide you with the vital confidence required to drive safely.

Reason #2: Learn at Your Own Pace

Pinnacle caters to different learning paces, making it easier for you to learn as you won't feel stressed or pressured into learning at a faster or slower rate than you are comfortable with.

Reason #3: Customer Service Oriented

Pinnacle is a local, family-owned business and our primary concern is ensuring that our customer is happy. We know this is the only way we can grow and our customers come first. This means you will get the best level of service possible and we go above and beyond to ensure you are pleased with your Pinnacle experience.

Reason #4: Learn on the Latest Models of Vehicles

Our fleet of vehicles is made up of only the latest models ensuring you will have a comfortable driving experience. This will also allow you to drive any new model vehicle without worrying about the adaptation period many drivers have to go through when switching to newer vehicles.

How To Get A Drivers License

THE RIGHT WAY

Reason #5: The Australian Driver Trainers Association stamp of approval

Pinnacle is registered with the Australian Driver Trainers Association so that you can be certain you are dealing with an accredited organisation and trained professionals. To receive the ADTA stamp of approval all instructors need to be highly skilled and licensed by the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure. This ensures that you will be trained only by the best and you will be in good hands on the road. You will never again have to worry about subpar instructors or your child being in the hands of someone who has no idea what they are doing!

Reason #6: Pick-up and Drop-Offs

Pinnacle provides customer pick up and drop offs within the ACT region so that you never have to worry about lack of time. We will pick up your kids for their driving lesson and drop them off once the lesson is over.

Reason #7: Flexibility

Pinnacle offers lessons 7 days a week between 7AM and 7PM so that you can choose whatever time slot fits your schedule best. You'll never again have to worry about taking time off work or school to learn how to drive with Pinnacle!

So, if you are:

- Looking for a trustworthy, qualified driving instructor in Canberra or the surrounding regions;
- Worried that you won't be able to teach your child to drive properly because they tend not to pay that much attention to you;
- Afraid of being able to control the car when you are learning or you are teaching your child to driver;
- Worried about being humiliated if you fail your driver's licence test;
- Uncomfortable throwing money out the window and wasting your time with less than qualified instructors...

...then Pinnacle is the only solution for you. In fact, we are so confident that you will love our services we are offering you an amazing opportunity...

How To Get A Drivers License

THE RIGHT WAY

Act Now and Get a 50% Discount on Your First Lesson!

We feel that the only way for you to judge the quality of our services properly is to take us for a spin, which is why we are offering, for a limited time only, a 50% discount on your first lesson! You have absolutely no obligation to continue with us but we believe that you will be so please with your first lesson, especially since you can cross off three of your competency requirements in your logbook on the very first day that you won't even consider any other option!

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