

Dear Parent / Caregiver

CHANGES TO GRADUATED LICENSING SCHEME – New rules for P1 drivers

South Australia is introducing new laws on 28 July 2014 to help prepare and protect young people for a lifetime of safe driving.

The first year of driving unsupervised is the riskiest in a person's driving life. Young drivers are still developing their ability to detect, identify and quickly respond to risks or hazards. Lack of experience, night-time driving and the presence of peer-aged passengers all contribute to younger drivers having an increased risk of being involved in a crash. The major change will be the introduction of a night driving and passenger restriction for all P1 drivers under the age of 25.

Night driving restriction

From 28 July 2014, holders of a P1 licence aged under 25 must not drive between midnight and 5am, unless they have a qualified supervising driver seated beside them or they meet one of the exemption criteria below:

- Driving to and from work or driving in the course of employment;
- Driving to and from education/training or driving in the course of education/training with a school, university, TAFE, apprenticeship or other formal training provider;
- Driving to and from formal volunteer work, or driving in the course of performing formal volunteer work;
- Driving to participate in sports, artistic, charitable, religious or scientific activities; or
- A police or emergency services officer on duty.

Learner motorcyclists under the age of 25 without a P2 or full licence for a car will also be subject to the night driving restriction.

In the school environment, these exemptions will cater for young people who may need to drive to an early morning training session (eg sport) or to drive home after participating in a late night drama production.

Passenger restriction

From 28 July 2014, holders of a P1 licence aged under 25 years must not carry more than one passenger aged between 16 and 20 (excluding immediate family members) unless they have a qualified supervising driver seated beside them or they meet one of the exemption criteria below:

- Driving in the course of employment; or
- A police or emergency services officer on duty.

An exemption from the passenger restriction will not be available for any other purpose, including education and training.

The passenger restriction may impact upon students who currently travel together. Under the new laws, this practice may continue but only if the P1 driver has a qualified supervising driver in the front seat beside them. Where a qualified supervising driver is present, the passenger restriction does not apply and additional passengers aged between 16 and 20 may travel in



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the vehicle. Immediate family members are also exempt, which means that P1 drivers will still be able to take their brothers and sisters to school, regardless of their age.

P1 licence holders are responsible for complying with these new laws and will be informed of the changes. They do not need to apply for an exemption from the night driving restriction for education and training purposes but may need to provide evidence that they meet the exemption criteria if requested by police.

Further information about the new laws and the exemption scheme can be found at www.mylicence.sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Wendy Johnson
Principal
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Jeremy Cogan
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Government
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