



What this all about?

Learning to drive is a big deal in anyone's life. It's taking the step from being reliant on others to get around, to enjoying the freedom of being able to head where you want, when you want.

And it all starts with the decision to get your learner driver's licence. In the ACT there are a few steps involved – and a few things you need to know that will make this process smoother all round for you, and for your family.

At the National Driving Academy we're here to help you reach this important milestone. We share some tips on what you need to get you on your way, and to lay down the foundations for a safer driving future.

*We're here to help you learn to drive in Canberra. The National Driving Academy way. **Safe driving, for life***

Table of Contents

- [How do I get my L's?](#)
- [I have my L's, what now?](#)
- [What do I need to be competent at?](#)
- [What should my supervisor do?](#)
- [When should I start my driving lessons?](#)
- [About the author](#)

How do I get my L's?

To get your ACT learner driver's licence you must:

- Be at least 15 years and 9 months old
- Have successfully completed a Road Ready Learner Licence Course, including a computerised knowledge test on the ACT road rules (ten hours' in duration)

The road ready course is provided by most ACT schools free of charge as part of the year ten curriculum. It is also conducted by a Road Ready Centre at various locations for a fee, and is available during the day, in the evenings and at weekends.

What should I take to the course?

- Your completed ACT application for a driver's licence (form provided on booking)
- Two passport size photos of yourself.
- Three forms of I.D. (see ACT Road Rules Handbook page 6 or Proof of Identity and Residency Requirements Document)
- Proof of residency (see ACT Road Rules Handbook page 6 or Proof of Identity and Residency Requirements Document)
- A pen and something to eat (tea and coffee provided)

At the course, you must show the correct proof of identity and residency.

These same documents should also be taken with your completed course certificates and Road Rules Knowledge Test certificate to a Canberra Connect Shopfront or the Road User Services office at Dickson so you can be issued with your learner driver's licence.

For bookings: Phone (02) 6162 5152 or (02) 6282 8990

Web <http://www.roadready.act.gov.au>

This website includes some excellent resources including:

- ACT Road Rules Knowledge Test
- Proof of Identity and Residence Form
- Downloadable ACT Road Rules Handbook

I have my L's, what now?

Congratulations!

You're now ready to commence your learning journey of supervised hands-on driving.

You can learn to drive with anyone who holds a current full driver's licence which is appropriate to the car you're driving. However, when it comes to laying down the foundations for a good driving future, we recommend using an accredited driving instructor such as a professional from **National Driving Academy**.

We work with you to provide a strong base for quality practice with other supervising drivers, which is vital if you wish to obtain your driver's licence using the ACT Log Book system.

We believe the key to learning safe driving for life is to ensure that the driving experience is longer, wider and deeper.

The **keys2drive.com.au** website summarises this approach:

Longer : providing more hours behind the wheel.

Wider : experiencing a greater variety of driving challenges, in all conditions.

Deeper : gaining a greater understanding of the psycho logical, emotional and mental challenges involved, and the true respon sibility that each driver holds.

At the National Driving Academy we recommend you take three to five driving lessons with a professional driver trainer soon after getting your learner licence.

This sets up strong foundations with basic skills and helps avoid the relationship strain that may arise from the experience with someone you know.

We also recommend including the free keys2drive driving lesson in this initial period which will provide a facilitated environment to establish goals and clarify skills.

Remember :

- A learner driver's licence lasts for two years, but must be held for at least six months before you can obtain a provisional driver's licence.
- You must display 'L' plates at all times when driving.
- Both certificates are valid for two years. If you don't get your learner driver's licence within two years of completing the Road Ready Course, you will be required to retake and successfully complete the Road Ready Course and Road Rules Knowledge Test again before your learner licence will be issued.
- Expired learner licence holders are only required to undertake and pass the Road Rules Knowledge Test again.

When you go to an ACT Government Shopfront or the Civic Driver Licence Service to get your licence, you must:

- Successfully complete an eye test.
- Provide your passed ACT Road Rules Knowledge Test certificate.
- Supply Proof of Identity and Residency.

What do I need to be competent at?

As a learner driver you will be issued with a Log Book and a publication titled ***Towards your P's***.

The Log Book covers 22 competencies and two reviews required to achieve the ACT Government Standard. These are the competencies that must be demonstrated under either the competency based system (commonly referred to as the Log Book method) or the one-off test.



The ***Towards your P's*** booklet is tremendously useful for you as it sets out detailed notes of what is required for each competency. The tasks are summarised below:

- Task 1** Good understanding of the controls
- Task 2** Cabin drill
- Task 3** Starting up procedure
- Task 4** Moving off procedure
- Task 5** Correct and smooth operation of gears
- Task 6** Steering control
- Task 7** Turns, left and right
- Task 8** Speed control
- Task 9** Slowing procedures
- Task 10** Stopping procedures
- Task 11** Hill starts
- Task 12** Give way rules
- Task 13** Reversing
- Task 14** Right angle parking
- Task 15** Reverse parallel parking
- Task 16** U-turns
- Task 17** Turning around in the road (3-point turn)

Revision point one

Task 18 Lane changing, merging and entering freeways

Task 19 Overtaking

Task 20 Observation skills

Task 21 Compliance with the system of vehicle control

Revision point two

Task 22 Driving on busy and unfamiliar roads

The number of driving lessons required to complete the ACT Log Book depends entirely on the skills, capacity to learn practical methods and the quality of practice between driving lessons of the individual learner.

You can improve skills through good quality, frequent and relevant driving practice, which will be influenced by your supervising driver.

- Read the Supervising Drivers' booklets provided by the RTA.
- Review the learners' log book to see progress and instructor notes.
- Book a Keys2drive free session and have the accredited driving instructor focus on their role as a supervising driver.
- Request to attend at least one driving lesson.
- Speak to or message the instructor about any concerns or to seek advice.

When should I start my driving lessons?



We believe the best approach is for you to take three to five driving lessons soon after obtaining your learner driver's licence.

This will set solid foundations for ongoing practice with supervising drivers, improve your confidence and establish the right behaviours.

The early stages of driving may prove stressful and relationships between parents and learners may become strained. A professional driving instructor has the necessary skills to communicate effectively with

you as a learner, adapting to your needs and capability, and to progressively and in a structured way, deliver the curriculum required to become a life-long safe driver.

Once the initial lesson block is completed you should be ready for good practice driving. We then suggest a regular driving lesson each month to ensure progressive skill development and further quality practice, which ensures that the experience is a deep, long and wide one as previously discussed.

And on approaching 17 years of age, take additional driving lessons to complete competences and get ready for the final competency (*we refer to it as the Final Drive which may not be completed earlier than 14 days before turning 17 or becoming eligible for a licence*).

And finally...

At National Driving Academy we realise that every learner driver is different. Different in confidence levels, different in ability, and different in the amount of access to practice you have available.

We recommend that you speak with us to assess your progress, set up a suggested driving lesson plan and timing.

And remember, learning to drive should not be a cramming exercise before a test. Take your time to work through these steps and you'll be on your way to a safer driving future.

We look forward to helping you learn to drive in Canberra, the National Driving Academy way.

Safe driving, for life.

Book Now

Phone: 1300 922 797 or 02 6259 4053

Online: <http://www.nationaldrivingacademy.com.au>

About the author



Tony Commisso BA (Accounting), FCA, is the Managing Director of National Driving Academy. Tony is the former franchisee of the NRMA Safer Driving School in Canberra and Queanbeyan, and established that business in Canberra. He is the proprietor of NRMA Insurance Service Centres in the Canberra Region.

Tony is most passionate about road safety, and in particular about keeping our new drivers safe from fatal accidents. He is active within the broader driver training industry including the Australian Driver Trainers Association, and is currently the President of the ACT Chapter. He also provides driving schools with leading solutions through his software and consulting business.

Tony has three children and developed his interest in the training of new drivers through his own experiences with teaching them to drive. His commitment to customers of National Driving Academy is to ensure that the quality of training. His focus is on getting new drivers to develop life-long safe driving skills rather than just getting their driver's licence. His family and friends entrust National Driving Academy to make a difference to their own children's journey towards being licenced as a learner driver.