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Statewide rollout for learner driver support program

- A Queensland Government program providing support for learner drivers and their supervisors is being rolled out statewide.
- More than 40 free Ready for the Road workshops will be delivered across Queensland between August 2026 and June 2027.
- The statewide rollout of the workshops is the first initiative to be delivered under the Queensland Government's Graduated Licensing System reform program.

The Queensland Government is strengthening support for learner drivers and their supervisors with the state-wide rollout of *Ready for the Road: Guiding your learner from L to P*.

Delivered by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), the program provides free, practical, face-to-face workshops to help supervisors build confidence and support safer driving behaviours during the critical learning-to-drive stage.

It focuses on real-world driving challenges, helping participants understand key risks, recognise safe driving behaviours and better prepare for the practical driving test.

The program has been successfully delivered in South East Queensland, where strong demand and positive participant feedback have demonstrated its value in supporting safer learner driver outcomes. Following this success, the program is now being expanded to communities across the state.

More than 40 free workshops will be delivered across Queensland between August 2026 and June 2027, with the first workshops happening in Cairns and Townsville during Queensland Road Safety Week, making it easier for communities across the state to access practical road safety education.

The statewide rollout of Ready for the Road is the first initiative to be delivered under the Queensland Government's Graduated Licensing System reform program.

A review that commenced in 2024 found Queensland's licensing system provides a strong, evidence-based foundation for helping novice drivers develop the skills, safe driving behaviours and confidence needed to drive independently.

The reform program will build on these strengths, with further enhancements to be progressively introduced over time.

To further improve accessibility and reach, TMR is also exploring options to complement in-person delivery with online webinars to support more supervisors – particularly in regional and remote communities.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads Deputy Director General of Network Services & Operations Dean Helm said supervisors played a vital role in shaping safe driving habits.

“Learning to drive is one of the most important milestones for young Queenslanders, and supervisors play a key role in helping learners build the skills and judgement they need to stay safe on our roads,” Mr Helm said.

“We know that the learning-to-drive phase is critical, and giving supervisors the right tools and information can make a lasting difference to a young person’s safety outcomes.

“It gives supervisors practical tools to help learner drivers gain valuable experience and develop safer driving habits before they get behind the wheel on their own.”

“By supporting both learners and supervisors, we’re helping create safer drivers and safer roads for everyone.”

Maroochydore father and previous workshop participant Bruce Atkinson said the workshop provided practical, real-world advice for both learner drivers and their supervisors.

“Attending with my daughter was invaluable. We refreshed our knowledge of the road rules, learned practical driving tips and had the chance to ask questions of road safety experts,” Mr Atkinson said.

“I’d recommend the workshop to anyone supervising a learner driver – it’s engaging, informative and well worth the time.”

Queenslanders can find out more and register for a session near them by visiting www.tmr.qld.gov.au/ready-for-the-road.

ENDS

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Explainer/fast facts

- Young drivers represent around 14% of Queensland licence holders but are involved in around 28% of road deaths (<https://streetsmarts.initiatives.qld.gov.au/young-drivers/>).
- A learner driver's risk of a serious crash becomes six times higher when they first transition to driving solo on a provisional licence (<https://streetsmarts.initiatives.qld.gov.au/young-drivers/get-the-facts/>).
- Despite improvements over time, young and novice drivers remain over-represented in fatal and serious crashes due to inexperience and the challenges associated with independent driving (research.qut.edu.au).
- Road crashes account for around one-quarter of all deaths among Australians aged 15–24 years (<https://datahub.roadsafety.gov.au/road-users/younger-australians>).

2026-27 Ready for the Road sessions – planned dates and locations (subject to change)

August

Sunshine Coast - 1 August
 Palm Beach - 6 August
 Cairns - 17 August
 Townsville - 18 August
 Tamborine Mountain - 27 August

September

Beaudesert - 1 September
 Mackay - 7 September
 Rockhampton - 8 September
 Helensvale - 8 September
 Gladstone - 9 September
 Toowoomba - 16 September
 Warwick - 17 September

October

Charters Towers - 14 October
 Robina - 27 October

November

Springfield - 11 November
 Gaythorne - 12 November
 Jindalee - 16 November
 Sunshine Coast - 17 November
 Ipswich - 18 November

Carseldine - 19 November
Logan - 25 November

December

Bundaberg - 7 December
Hervey Bay - 8 December
Gympie - 9 December

2027

January

Warwick - 27 January
Toowoomba - 28 January

February

Mackay - 1 February
Rockhampton - 2 February
Gladstone - 3 February

March

Cairns - 1 March
Townsville - 2 March

April

Bundaberg - 19 April
Hervey Bay - 20 April
Gympie - 21 April

May

Carseldine - 11 May
Gaythorne - 12 May
Sunshine Coast - 13 May
Redcliffe - 14 May

June

Jindalee - 1 June
Cleveland - 2 June
Ipswich - 3 June
Logan - 4 June
Gold Coast - 21 June

Graduated Licensing System reforms

- Queensland is strengthening the Graduated Licensing System to better support novice drivers.
- Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) was commissioned to undertake an evaluation and propose enhancements to the Learner Driver

stage of the Graduated Licensing System in 2024. The reform program aims to improve the system based on the recommendations from this evaluation.

- The areas of reform will focus on helping learner drivers gain more diverse experience, develop safer driving behaviours and reduce crash risk during the early years of solo driving.
- Ready for the Road is the first action to be completed from the reform program. Other key actions include:
 - Further strengthening support for supervisors through enhanced PrepL-S content, more accessible resources and increased awareness of available support.
 - Recognising a broader range of safe, structured practical driver training to contribute towards the 100 supervised driving hours requirement.
 - Expanding access to the Learner Driver Mentor Program for regional and disadvantaged learners.
 - Exploring the future role of competency-based assessment and emerging technologies to enhance driver learning and hazard awareness.
 - The Graduated Licence System Review Phase One reports can be found here: <http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/safety/road-safety/gls-review>