Regional Pilot of a Restricted P1 Provisional Licence

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Background

• Importance of access to driver licence for young people in rural and remote areas of NSW
• Alternative transport options may be limited, impacting on their access to life opportunities
• NSW learner drivers requirement - complete 120 hours of supervised driving before applying for a provisional driver licence
• Board of road safety experts who developed the Safer Driver Course also considered options for young drivers from remote, lower socio-economic and Aboriginal communities
• The Restricted P1 provisional licence pilot was developed - commenced on 1 July 2013 and will run for two years
Objective & Scope: Restricted P1 Licence Pilot

- Objective: To facilitate access to services for young people in pilot areas
- Targeted at learner drivers under 25
- In three remote areas of NSW:
  - North West: Brewarrina, Walgett and Bourke
  - Far West: Broken Hill City
  - Murray and Murrumbidgee: Balranald and Hay
- Areas selected based on:
  - Comparative socio-economic disadvantage
  - Young driver licensing rates
  - Crash analysis and rates of unauthorised driving
  - Availability of young driver support services and licensing services from RMS
Areas included in pilot

Trip Purposes

Restricted P1 Provisional Licence enables pilot participant to drive only for the purposes of work, education or medical appointments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>A trip will be for the primary purpose of your education when the trip is:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• to or from education facilities/institutions or courses,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• as part of an education course,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• to enrol in an education course, or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• to, from or in the course of vocational training.</td>
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<td>Employment</td>
<td>A trip will be for the primary purpose of your employment when the trip is:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• to, from or in the course of paid employment,</td>
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<td>• seeking paid employment (e.g. a job interview), or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• to, from or in the course of formal community service (e.g. rural fire service or SES).</td>
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<td>Medical appointments and/or treatment</td>
<td>A trip will be for the primary purpose of medical appointments or treatment when the trip is:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• to or from medical or health support for yourself or another person.</td>
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Pilot Requirements

- Participants must:
  - complete 50 supervised driving hours (including 10 hours of night driving) and
  - pass the driving test to qualify for the restricted licence.
- Permitted to break their trips for food, fuel and rest.
- Encouraged to carry supporting information such as a TAFE timetable or notice of a doctor’s appointment if they are stopped by police.
- Required to display a ‘C’ sticker on their P plates.

Sanctions

- Pilot participants caught driving outside of their restricted licence conditions receive a penalty of two demerit points and a $236 fine.
- There is no penalty if pilot participants do not display a ‘C’ sticker.
- Suspended pilot participants have their restricted licence requirements extended until the requirements have applied for six months.
- Pilot participants disqualified from driving are not allowed to apply for another restricted P1 provisional licence, and will need to complete the remaining supervised log book hours before applying for a standard P1 licence.
Communications Initiatives

- Learner licence holders in pilot areas received letters to inform them about the restricted P1 provisional licence pilot.
- Information is available from Service NSW centres, RMS registries, and the RMS contact centre.
- Fact sheets, Q and As and operational procedures were developed for RMS staff and NSW Police.

- Community information sessions were held in pilot areas.
- Informal networking with service providers.

Evaluation

- The pilot will evaluate
  - the extent that this initiative can assist young drivers to access the licensing system, and
  - the appropriateness of the restricted licence conditions.
- Gain a better understanding of the key licensing and road safety challenges facing young people in rural and remote areas.
- Gauge views from a range of stakeholders:
  - Pilot participants, young people that elected not to participate, community members, service providers and RMS staff.
  - Methodology to include: participant surveys, licensing and crash data analysis and in-depth focus groups.
- TfNSW, RMS and the NSW Police Force will monitor any road safety impacts throughout the pilot.
Early Learnings

• There has not been a significant number of enquiries or applications for the restricted licence.

• The number of pilot participants is expected to be low due to the low learner population in remote areas.

• Early stages of evaluation can focus on questions of uptake

For further information visit http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/licensing