

Merri-bek TAC L2P Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Merri-bek TAC L2P Program?

The TAC Learners to Probationary (L2P) program aims to assist learner drivers under 21 years of age, who do not have access to significant adults or a suitable motor vehicle, to accrue the mandatory 120 hours of supervised learner driving experience.

The Merri-bek TAC L2P Program is operated by the Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (INLLEN), managed by the Department of Transport and funded by the Transport Accident Commission (TAC).

How does it work?

Young people can be referred to the program by youth agencies, schools, parents, or can refer themselves. There is no charge to participants accepted into this program.

Learner drivers are matched with fully licensed volunteer mentors who have undertaken a selection and training process. Using a fully insured program vehicle, the learner and their mentor go out driving (usually) once a week, for approximately 1-2 hours, working towards 120 hours of driving practice. Fuel costs are also covered by the program.

Learner drivers have a choice to learn in an automatic or manual car. Merri-bek L2P vehicles are located at the Fawcner and Brunswick Police Stations.

Is it safe?

Analysis of crash data shows that supervised learner drivers have a very low risk of crashing – much lower in fact than most other drivers on the road – precisely due to them being supervised by a driver with a full licence.

All learner drivers will receive professional driving lessons until they are assessed by an instructor as ready to drive with a mentor. There are four stages which learner drivers need to complete.

Who are the Learner Drivers?

The learner drivers are young people in Merri-bek who do not have the usual supports needed to get their drivers' licence. They come from a diversity of backgrounds and situations which may include: migrant and refugee backgrounds; low income families; single parent families; and/or, young people in out of home care. The program gives these young people the opportunity to increase their engagement in education, employment and community life by gaining their driver licence.

Who can apply to be a Volunteer Mentor?

Mentors need to meet the following criteria to join the Merri-bek TAC L2P program:

1. 25 years old and older.
2. Full and current Victorian driver licence and safe driving history.
3. Interested in working with young people, compassionate, patient and respectful.

4. Ability to dedicate 1-2 hours per week.
5. Willing to complete the VicRoads Learner Driver Mentor training program.

A National Police Check, Driver History Check and Working with Children Check are required for all volunteers prior to acceptance into the program (costs covered by L2P Program). A range of supports are available to volunteers in the program. People from across all ages and diverse cultural backgrounds are encouraged to apply to be a Volunteer Mentor.

What is the process to becoming a Volunteer Mentor?

1. Mentors complete application (see below), interview, checks and training, and are selected on suitability to join the program.
2. Learner drivers complete formal driving lessons with a qualified instructor until the instructor informs the L2P Coordinator that the learner driver can control the car.
3. Learner driver and mentor are matched.
4. Weekly supervised driving sessions commence using the approved and insured L2P program vehicle, along with further formal driving lessons as required.

Benefits of being a Volunteer Mentor

The benefits of mentoring are many and include opportunities to:

- Make a positive, life-changing difference to a young person's life.
- Meet new people from diverse backgrounds.
- Gain satisfaction and fulfilment from giving back to community.
- Develop social and professional skills.
- Have fun along the way!

Applying to Participate in the Merri-bek L2P Program

To be considered for the TAC L2P program, learners and volunteer mentors must complete an application form and undergo an assessment.

Application forms are available via the [L2P page on the VicRoads website](#).

Once the application form is received, we will be in contact to go through next steps.

For more information please contact:

Merri-bek TAC L2P Program Coordinator

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