

Youth road safety on the Gold Coast

Young people aged between 17 and 24 are among our most vulnerable road users on the Gold Coast.

Simple advice for learner drivers and young drivers:

- Take your time and follow the graduated licensing system.
- Have as much supervised experience as possible.
- Ensure you, and all passengers, always wear a seatbelt.
- Be aware of your own ability and limitations.

While skill and knowledge about road rules and the road environment are important, particularly for novice drivers, they have little influence on the driving environment or conditions under which driving behaviour occurs. On-road driving experience provides the development and maintenance of higher-order cognitive skills related to driving like hazard perception.

Gold Coast Road Safety Plan 2015–2020

Road safety is a community issue and our Road Safety Plan nominates actions and responsibilities for everyone, including road authorities, transport user advocates, law enforcement and the general public.

Underpinning our endeavours is our vision to reduce crashes, save lives and prevent serious trauma on the Gold Coast transport network.

This plan sets the direction for change in culture – a culture in which fatalities and serious injuries on Gold Coast roads are not accepted as inevitable.

For more information

P 1300 GOLDCOAST (1300 465 326)
W goldcoast.qld.gov.au/roadsafety

Crash data statistics are based on results presented in the Gold Coast Road Safety Plan 2015–2020. The crash data statistics are based on the Queensland Road Crash Database* using a 5 year reporting period between 2008 and 2012.

*State of Queensland, 2014. Crash Data from Queensland Roads (online). Available at data.qld.gov.au/dataset/crash-data-from-queensland-roads (Accessed 15/1/2014)



5 year target

Reduce fatalities and serious injuries on the **Gold Coast** transport system by at least **30%**.

In the five year period between 2008 – 2012,

175

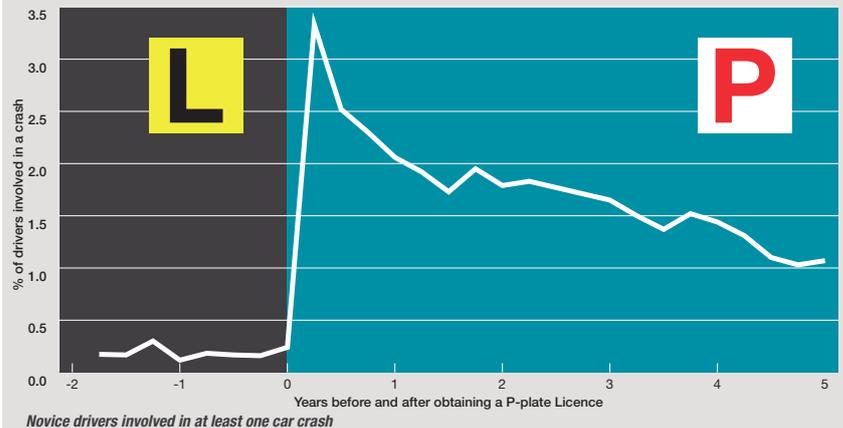
young adults

were killed or hospitalised annually.

Young adults are at greatest risk of being involved in a crash in their first year of driving unsupervised on their **P-plates**.



Our 17-24 year olds are involved in **27%** of all our serious crashes while only representing 11% of our population.



Our young people continue to be over-represented in our road trauma statistics.

Young adults are over-represented in crashes involving most transport modes:



28%
PEDESTRIAN INJURIES



22%
MOTORCYCLE INJURIES



28%
CAR (DRIVER AND PASSENGER) INJURIES

Getting your licence

Queensland has a graduated licensing system to help reduce fatalities on the roads – particularly among young drivers. The aim of the system is to encourage safer, more proficient drivers, allowing novice drivers to gain more experience and improve their driving skills before they are allowed to progress to a higher type or class of licence. Research suggests that young drivers and riders, aged 16 to 24 years, are 60 per cent more likely to be involved in a serious crash than licensed mature adult drivers and riders, aged 25 to 59 years.

The following rules apply under the graduated licensing system:

- The minimum learner age is 16 years of age and the learner licence period is a minimum of one year.
- Learner drivers under 25 years of age must gain 100 hours of certified supervised driving experience recorded in a learner logbook or logbook app before being eligible to apply for a provisional licence. Note: Learner drivers and their supervisors may choose to use the Queensland Learner Logbook app to record the required 100 hours driving experience.
- Mobile phone use, including hands-free, blue-tooth accessories and loud-speaker functions, is restricted for learner and P1 licence holders under 25 years of age.
- Supervisors and passengers of learner and P1 licence holders under 25 years of age cannot use a phone that is on loudspeaker but can use a hand held or hands-free mobile phone where the conversation cannot distract the driver.
- To be eligible to apply for a motorcycle learner licence, you must have held a provisional or open licence of another class for at least one year in the last five years.
- A two-phased P1 and P2 licence system applies.
- Display of L-plates (a black L on a yellow background) and P-plates (a red P-plate for P1 and green P-plate for P2) are compulsory.
- Peer passenger restrictions apply to young novice drivers – P1 provisional licence holders under 25 years of age can only carry one passenger aged under 21 years between 11pm and 5am.
- High-powered vehicles are restricted for provisional drivers under 25 years of age.
- Drivers must pass a hazard perception test to progress from a P1 to a P2 or open licence (dependant on age).
- Restrictions, such as no late night driving, apply for disqualified and suspended young drivers.

To learn more about getting a licence (from learner to open) and advice for supervising a learner driver, visit tmr.qld.gov.au/licensing

Don't get distracted

While mobile phone use (including hands-free, blue-tooth accessories and loud-speaker functions) is illegal for L and P1 licence holders under 25 years of age, research on mobile phone use among 16-24 year olds while driving reveals:

- on 50 per cent or more of trips, 43 per cent read or send text messages while driving
- you are four times more at risk of a serious crash if you use a mobile while driving¹
- 65 per cent used their phone to read or send texts at lights or stopped in traffic (Footprints research, 2015).

While we all love using our smart phones, using a mobile phone while driving makes you as dangerous as a drunk driver and you're four times more likely to crash. Keep it out of reach, out of sight, and out of mind. Switch it to silent, put it in your glove box or boot, or pull over somewhere safe if you must answer.

Passengers and loud music can also be a distraction to novice drivers, so turn the radio down and stick to the law about peer passenger restrictions if you're a P1 provisional licence holder under 25 years of age.

Don't drive tired

Did you know that 601 16-24 year olds in Queensland over a five-year period (from 2010-2014) were involved in a fatigue-related crash where someone died or was taken to hospital.

When you're tired you don't function well. In fact being awake for 17 hours is the same as being over the legal driving limit. And if you get behind the wheel you might fall asleep and never wake up. If you crash, you'll hit at speed because you can't brake when you're asleep. So, plan to rest at least 15 minutes every two hours. Avoid driving when you're supposed to be asleep. Avoid long drives after work. Avoid driving for longer than 10 hours in one day. Caffeine is only a temporary solution. Turning up the radio won't help for long, neither will winding down the window. The only fix for being tired is sleep so rest before you hit the road.

Buying your first car?

Thinking about buying your first car? It's a big decision, so make sure you check out our no-nonsense guide to safe cars to save you from any awkward conversations. Visit jointhethrive.qld.gov.au/safe-cars

1. McEvoy, S., Stevenson, M., McCart, A., Woodward, M., Haworth, C., Palamara, P. and Cercarelli, R. (2005).

'Role of mobile phones in motor vehicle crashes resulting in hospital attendance: a case-crossover study'. British Medical Journal

