



Charity gives, justice changes.

Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service

Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service is a community services organisation that has been helping people battle poverty and disadvantage since 1976.

We believe everyone deserves an equal place in the world and a quality of life that makes participation in the community possible. This is why we work with the most vulnerable, particularly women and girls.

We support young people experiencing a range of issues including homelessness, substance abuse, mental health and difficulties in education. Our work equips young people with the skills and confidence they need to transition through to adulthood and gain independence.

Our programs for young people are led in partnership with schools and other community service organisations in Collingwood, St Albans, St Kilda and the Mornington Peninsula.

L2P Learner Driver Mentor Program – Volunteer mentors

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I feel unsure about supervising a young learner driver. Do I need any special training?

No special prior training is required. We will provide you with comprehensive training (10 hours over 3 sessions including a practical exercise) to help you be a great supervising driver. You must have your full driver licence and a good driving record.

2. Will I be expected to teach someone how to drive?

No, young people accessing this program will have, and continue to receive formal driving lessons from a qualified instructor.

Your role will only be to supervise, provide guidance and demonstrate good driving behaviour. You will not be asked to supervise a young person's driving practice until they have been cleared by their instructor to do so.

3. When can I volunteer?

The program is very flexible and we have many volunteers who work full time but volunteer before or after work and at the weekend.

4. My company allows its staff to volunteer during work hours, can I use that time in the L2P program?

Absolutely! Do bear in mind that many companies have a limit to the volunteering hours they offer staff and you may still need to commit some of your own time. You may also need to check out your company's insurance policy for what you are and aren't covered for when volunteering in work time.

5. Why is this program so important to young people?

The requirement for learner drivers to accrue 120 hours of supervised driving practice before taking the provisional licence test is of great value to everyone in the community because it improves road safety.

However, for those young people who may not have access to a car or an adult in their life who is willing or able to supervise their driving on a regular basis, gaining this vital in-car experience can be almost impossible. This will likely be the case for young people who are living independently or in unstable or impoverished family circumstances.

Getting your driver licence as a young person is a great achievement. In many ways it can be viewed as a major milestone of adulthood. It also opens up new opportunities for employment and can be a life changing event.

Time spent with a young person in a car can also be very important on a personal level. It is an informal, private space where young people often choose to talk about difficulties or dilemmas in their life.

6. What are the requirements of volunteer driver mentors?

Requirements include:

- full Victorian Driver Licence and good driving record (preferably a minimum of 10 years driving experience)
- commitment of at least 2 hours per week for 12 months
- satisfactory completion of Police, Drivers Licence and Working With Children checks
- satisfactory completion of an eyesight test (free of charge via Medicare).

More information

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