



# MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon David Borger MP

Minister for Housing  
Minister for Western Sydney  
Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport

## **NEW RULES FOR LEARNER DRIVERS**

The pressure on parents to teach their children to drive is about to be eased under new rules announced today by the Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport, David Borger.

Mr Borger said that from December 19, one hour of structured driving tuition by a professional driving instructor will count for three hours in the learner driver logbook.

“These changes to the NSW Graduated Licensing Scheme for novice drivers will be capped at a maximum of 10 one-hour lessons counting as 30 logbook hours.

“This means learner drivers will still need to complete 120 hours of driving in total, but 30 hours will be recorded in the driver’s log book for 10 hours of professional driving instruction.” Mr Borger said.

“Also from December 19, learners who are 25 years old or over will no longer be required to complete a log book.

“This is a sensible approach as research shows older learner drivers are more inclined to drive safely than younger novice drivers. For many of these older learner drivers, the 120 hour logbook requirement is a significant barrier that impacts on their work and family commitments. “ Mr Borger said.

NRMA Group CEO Tony Stuart congratulated the NSW Government on today’s announcement and said it was a win for learner drivers and their parents.

“The NSW Government has obviously listened to the concerns of parents of learner drivers and responded accordingly,” Mr Stuart said.

“The NRMA is pleased the NSW Government has struck a happy medium between making sure learner drivers get the best breadth of driver training experience possible while also providing some relief to parents who had to spend 120 hours in the car with their children.

“These changes will help ensure learner drivers qualify for their Ps as better drivers and will help parents too.”

Mr Borger said that under the changes, lessons are not compulsory. However the program will act as an incentive for learner drivers to obtain professional lessons while they are learning to drive.

“In the early stages of driving solo, many novice drivers crash through inexperience.

“We know from research there are road safety benefits for learner drivers obtaining as much practice as possible in a wide range of driving situations and conditions, Mr Borger said.

“Parents and non-professional supervising drivers play a vital role in helping learners get experience but professional driving tuition also plays an important role.

“In particular, research shows that lessons are more likely to be of benefit if they are structured, focusing on safe driving practices.

“These changes will help learner drivers as well as mums and dads and other supervisors who may find it difficult to reach the 120 hour target,” Mr Borger said.

Mr Philip Dacunto of West Ryde, and father of twin boys, Ben and John who are learning to drive, agrees.

“This is good news for me and my wife. With two boys learning to drive, we always knew we would be spending a lot of hours supervising them both. We are experienced drivers but lack the formal teaching skills and it makes sense that their professional lessons should count for more than our parent supervised lessons.” Mr Dacunto said.

One of the twins, Ben Dacunto said, “It’s great that professional lessons will count for more hours in my log book. The structured program means my parents will have a better awareness of the skills I need to become a safe driver.

Jeff McDougall, President of the Australian Driver Trainers Association (ADTA) is working with the driving instruction industry to roll out a structured program for NSW learner drivers.

“The program focuses on hazard perception and safe driving and will be of particular benefit in the early stages of the learner licence.

“It will be used to develop a partnership with parents, thereby supporting learner drivers and encouraging much needed practice,” Mr Borger said.