



CAN I DRIVE IN VICTORIA?

Do I need a Victorian licence?

If you have a driver's licence from **outside Australia**, then the rules depend on your visa.

- ◆ If you have a **temporary visa**, then you can drive on your overseas driver's licence for as long as the visa is current. You must carry a translation of the license if it is not written in English, or you must carry an International Driving Permit.
- ◆ If you have a **permanent visa**, then you can drive on the overseas licence for up to 6 months from the date you entered Australia or 6 months from the date you received the visa, whichever one is later in time. If you want to drive after 6 months, you must apply for a Victorian driver's licence.

If you have a driver's licence from **interstate or New Zealand**, you can drive on that license for up to three months after you arrive in Victoria. If you want to keep driving after three months, you will need to apply to convert your licence into a Victorian driver's licence.

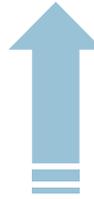
How do I apply for a Victorian licence?

There are three different types of licences in Victoria: learner's permits, probationary licences (P1 and P2) and full driver's licences. Each license has different rules about who can apply, depending on your age and how long you have been driving.

To get a licence, you may need to take a test about road laws, and an on-road driving test as well. There are some exceptions depending on which country you are from and how old you are.

If you want to apply for a Victorian driver's licence, you should contact VicRoads for information on 13 11 71.

ABOUT US



Deakin Student Legal Service provides free and confidential legal advice and information for all current Deakin University students.

Even if you are not sure if your problem is a legal one please visit our website. If we are unable to help, we can refer you to someone who can. Book your appointment at:

eclc.org.au/deakin



Eastern Community Legal Centre
ph: (03) 9285 4822

Burwood Campus



Barwon Community Legal Service
ph: 1300 430 599

Warrnambool Waterfront & Warrnambool Campuses

MORE PLACES FOR HELP & INFORMATION

VicRoads

Australia: 131 171
International: + 61 3 8391 3216
vicroads.vic.gov.au

Fines Victoria

Metro: (03) 9200 8111
Regional: 1300 369 819
fines.vic.gov.au

Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA)

(Disputes with Insurers)
1800 931 678
afca.org.au

Deakin Student Legal Service is a partnership between Deakin University Student Association (DUSA), Eastern Community Legal Centre and Barwon Community Legal Service.



Deakin Student
Legal Service



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INSURANCE
PROPERTY
DAMAGE**

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For free information, referrals and appointments visit:

eclc.org.au/deakin

DISCLAIMER: This information is intended as a guide only. It is not a substitute for legal advice.

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WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT AN ACCIDENT?

Why should I get car insurance?

In Victoria, your annual car registration fee covers you if someone is injured in an accident. But this does not cover you for property damage. So if you have an accident, this won't cover the cost of repairing your car or someone else's car.

Accidents can happen even if you're a good driver.

Driving conditions, unforeseen road events, and sudden emergencies can all contribute to the cause of an accident.

But it's not my fault!

Arguments about who's at fault in a car accident are very common. Even if you don't think you caused the accident, the other driver or their insurer might still want you to pay for the costs of fixing their car. Or you might want the other driver to pay for your repairs.

If you have car insurance then the insurance company can sort out the cost of repairs, get money from the other party and handle any arguments about who is at fault.

If you don't have car insurance then you'll need to get lawyers involved. The other driver's insurance company may want to take you to court, or you might have to sue the other driver in court to cover your costs.

What should I do after an accident?

You are legally required to:

- ◆ Stop the vehicle.
- ◆ Assist in any way you can.
- ◆ Give your car registration details, name and address to the other driver.
- ◆ You must also give the name and address of the owner of the car if you are not the owner.
- ◆ If someone is injured then you must also report the accident to the nearest police station.

If you don't do these things after an accident then the Police can charge you with an offence.

For your own benefit, you should also get **photographs** of the accident, photographs of any damage to your car or the other party's car and the contact details of any **witnesses**. If the Police attended the scene, you can also get a **traffic accident report**. This will be useful if you have to prove or defend who was responsible for the accident.

You should never admit responsibility for the accident at any time.

What is an infringement?

As we have already covered, the other driver can bring a civil legal claim against you for damage to their property.

Additionally, if the accident is reported to the police and they believe you have broken a driving law, the police can give you an infringement. Usually you will be asked to pay a fine, and sometimes you may receive demerit points.

Only authorised agencies like the police can give you infringements. Infringements are legally separate from any property damage that occurred in the accident and are dealt with differently in the legal system.

DICTIONARY

Third party person

This is the compulsory insurance that is paid in part by your annual car registration fee. This insurance covers you if a person is injured in a motor vehicle accident.

Third party property

Covers you for property damage done to someone else's car.

Comprehensive property

Covers you for property damage done to someone else's car AND your own car.

If your car has been damaged in an accident, you will need to submit an accident report to your insurer before you can get any money. This is called **making a claim**. Most car insurance companies will also want you to pay an excess when you make a claim.

An **excess** is an amount of money you will have to pay on the claim before your insurance policy begins operating. This means that the insurance company will only begin paying the costs of a claim once it goes past your excess amount.

The excess will vary depending on the type of insurance you choose and the premium. The **premium** is the amount of money you pay for the insurance.

