

Tara Cheyne MLA

Manager of Government Business

Attorney-General

Minister for Human Rights

Minister for City and Government Services

Minister for the Night-Time Economy

Member for Ginninderra

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Questions on Notice Paper No 7

Friday, 16 May 2025

Question No. 437

MS BARRY: To ask the Minister for City and Government Services —

1. In relation to the process for applications for an ACT full driver's licence for people from overseas that depends on whether their overseas driver licence has “recognition status”, can the Minister advise the process for having additional countries added to the recognition status list.
2. Can the Minister advise the justification for requiring all drivers from countries not on the recognition status list having to go through the full process of completing the ACT pre-learner licence course and passing the ACT Road Rules test, regardless of their past driving experience.
3. What exemptions exist to this standard policy (i.e. Diplomatic).
4. Can licence issue authorities exercise discretion when presented with an application with an outstanding driving record, or are they bound by the current binary rules.
5. What exceptions or assistance are provided to licence applicants who are financially constrained.
6. What exceptions or assistance are available to persons from a non-English speaking background.
7. How is the current approach consistent with legal obligations under the Charter for Multiculturalism.

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA – The answer to the Member’s questions are as follows:

1. Countries or jurisdictions seeking recognition status need to apply through Austroads, information is available at the following link.



<https://austroads.gov.au/drivers-and-vehicles/overseas-drivers/overseas-driver-licensing-policy-review/application-for-recognition-of-an-overseas-issued-driver-licence-in-au>.

2. The Recognised Country scheme including the Experienced Driver Recognition arrangements have been in place for a long time. Austroads has reviewed the scheme to ensure they reflect Australia's car and motorcycle licensing schemes. The changes ensure licensing regimes in those countries or jurisdictions being provided recognition status are comparable with those in force in Australia. These arrangements align with the Safe Systems approach to driver licence training and testing and the Vision Zero principle.
3. The general exemptions from the prescribed licence eligibility requirements are provided for in section 66A of the *Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Regulation 2000*.
4. The Road Transport Authority may provide exemptions in line with section 67 of the *Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Regulation 2000*.

The requirements to obtain an ACT driver licence only eventuate once a person becomes a permanent resident (usually through the issue of a permanent residency Visa). Diplomats usually retain the status of a visiting driver and can continue to drive on their overseas licence as long as it remains current and they comply with the requirements of their overseas licence.

5. Various concessions are available to applicants for ACT driver licences in line with the *Road Transport (General) Concessions Determination 2024 (No 1)*.
6. Persons from a non-English speaking background can access translating and interpreting services when calling the Access Canberra contact centre or visiting a service centre. Providers delivering pre-learner courses also offer the use of interpreter services.
7. The regulations and arrangements for issuing driver licences in the ACT including the eligibility requirements are consistent with the Charter for Multiculturalism.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for City and Government Services

Date:

10/6/25

This response required 3 hr and 20 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$332.03