



Learner License Theory for Hurunui Youth

Overview

The Hurunui district is a large geographical area with lots of rural towns and there is no public transport option available except for volunteer driven community cars, a fortnightly 'shopping shuttle' from Amberley to Rangiora and the St Johns Health Shuttle for medical appointments. A large barrier for Hurunui residents is the distance and time it takes to get to the testing centre in Rangiora for their licensing needs.

From the 2024 Youth Takeover Survey 82% of the respondents said that access to learner theory support was important to them.

There has been delays for learner drivers to be able to get an appointment for their test. Once the theory instruction has been completed ideally need the test as quickly as possible to completely cement the learning.

Solutions

We worked with schools to use the classroom environment with an licensed driving instructor. They brought the learning to life for the young people. It was a 6 hour day, young people were in small groups at tables and they had access to 'little cars' and street maps to practise what they were learning.

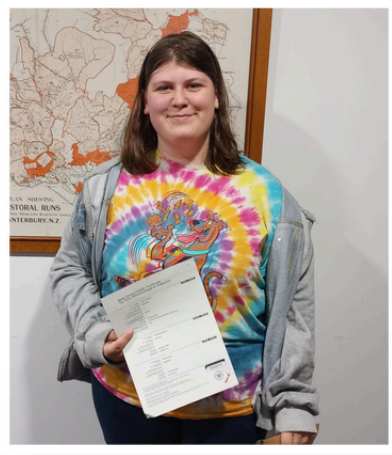
After the completion of the theory session the Safer Roads Facilitator arranged for the licensing agent to come to the Hurunui district so the young people could then sit their learner license. There were testing sessions at Amberley, Cheviot Area School and Hurunui College (Hawarden). Our pass rate is 100% as at September 2024.

Challenges

If you haven't applied for a passport its one of the most formal processes a young person goes through to gain their license, their first legal ID. Having the right info for sitting their test and completing the paper work can be a challenge so we cover the forms at the learner theory sessions as well.

Getting to a testing station: Council uses the AA, who is happy to come to the Hurunui for testing. We require a minimum of 15 people to be able to hold a testing session, so we've opened it to older people who need to renew their license more regularly from 75 years old. This has taken away the pressure away of travelling to Rangiora and instead can be done close to home.





Outcomes

- 1 The current pass rate for **all** students is 100%.
- 2 Offering this locally has taken away the travel time, transport and financial barrier to get to a testing station, for some it would be a 3 hour round trip.
- 3 It was a relaxed, fun and familiar classroom environment so the young people were engaged and cemented learning. Online practise test do not always suit peoples learning needs.
- 4 Because the testing occurred at school, they were in an environment that they already knew. It was more relaxed and less stress for them.

The Future...

Testing will continue to be offered in connection with learner theory education, as long as the minimum numbers can be met.

Learner theory classes are now a staple offered during term time and the school holidays and calendared across the district throughout the year.



“If we can support as many 16 year olds through their learner theory journey and pass their test it removes the first hurdle to gaining their full license. Not everyone can learn easily online/self directed so the instructor unpicks the tricky questions. As adults we also ‘forget the specifics’ of a lot of road rules, so having an expert on hand is great!

Partnering with our schools is a game changer as it removes another transport barrier. We know how important a driving license is for our rural communities with no public transport so this initiative will continue to be a focus for us.”

Jo Sherwood - Youth Team Leader