

# Driver Training Reform Consultative Committee

## Industry Communique May 2026



As part of the Committee's ongoing commitment to keeping industry stakeholders informed, this communique provides a quarterly update on the progress of the Driver Training Reform Consultative Committee.

## MDI Unique Numbers

Work is currently underway to provide all licensed Motor Driving Instructors (MDIs) with a unique identification number, along with a physical and digital MDI Licence card. This number will be used in place of your personal driver licence number when recording driving hours in digital and paper logbooks.

This will remove the need to use your driver's licence number on business documentation.

Further information, including implementation timeframes and instructions for use, will be provided to industry members as details are finalised.

## MDI Vehicle Standards

A draft framework outlining minimum vehicle standards for MDIs has been developed. These standards aim to improve safety, consistency and professionalism across the industry, while ensuring appropriate protection for both instructors and learners.

The MDI standard will include the following requirements:

- Maximum vehicle age of 10 years to ensure modern safety features and reliability.
- Dual brake system installed by a certified installer to allow safe instructor intervention.
- MDI rear-view mirror(s) to support effective supervision.
- Vehicles have factory fitted driver and front passenger airbags.
- Manufacturer installed ADAS safety critical systems are operational at all times
- Vehicle modifications must comply with Australian Standards or any relevant South Australian approvals or certifications.

For MDIs operating vehicles which have been modified for the training and assessment of people with a disability, exemptions may apply to the **10-year age limit** where compliance is not practical. This ensures accessibility for specialised training while maintaining safety wherever possible.

## Vehicles used for assessments

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) will conduct all Practical Driving Tests (PDTs) using government vehicles only.

This is intended to:

- improve safety standards and help support the safety and wellbeing of both learners and Government Examiners during testing
- enhance accessibility and cost consistency for learners
- support an assessment environment that focuses on overall driving competence rather than vehicle familiarity.

Exemptions will remain available, for clients to use vehicles that have been specifically modified to support people with disabilities.

## Regulator Assessments upon MDI renewal

We are receiving enquiries regarding the requirement to undertake a Regulator Assessment (RA) on renewal of MDI licences.

The assessment process will remain broadly consistent with the current RA standard. Applicants will be required to successfully complete all three components of the RA prior to their licence expiring to continue operating as an MDI. These components are:

1. Drive Assessment - novice standard (minimum 80% for system of car control and 100% road law compliance). This will be in line with the new PDT, which is currently in development.
2. Commentary Drive - a commentary drive is an advanced technique where the instructor clearly verbalises key hazards, risks, actions and road rules while driving to demonstrate safe decision-making and teach effective roadcraft.
3. Training and Delivery of Tasks - the applicant must demonstrate the ability to plan and deliver a structured training session to a novice driver. They will need to effectively introduce, explain and demonstrate tasks in line with the Driving Companion, while adapting to the learner's needs and providing clear feedback to support skill development.

MDIs are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these requirements and seek support where needed through industry associations and mentors. [Current Procedure Guidelines – Regulator Assessment – Class Car](#).

## Commencement and the Deemed Period update

In the transition from the old framework to the new, there are a number of dates you will need to be aware of and understand what they mean. The commencement date is the date the reforms come into effect. This date is yet to be confirmed but is currently anticipated to be in the first half of 2027.

From this point, MDI licences will become “deemed” allowing existing MDIs to continue to operate but under the new provisions of the legislation. This means rules like the requirements for contracts, meeting vehicle standards and cameras, training standards etc will apply.

The “deemed period” is the time between the commencement of the reform and the “relevant date”. The relevant date is last date which existing MDIs can nominate to remain in the industry as a licensed MDI.

Work has commenced to plan how the “deemed period” will be managed and implemented. What we can tell you is MDIs will be required to notify the Department that they want to continue in the industry.

To do this, MDIs will be required to make an application which must include:

- a commercial certificate of fitness
- current working with children check (WWCC)
- a national police check.

This will ensure requirements for strengthened entry into the driver training industry are met.

If your MDI licence is due to expire during the “deemed period” and you want to continue to operate as an MDI, you will need to make an application and pass a Regulator Assessment to renew your MDI licence prior to expiry.

The Department will provide you with advanced notice and further information to help you prepare for commencement and the deemed period. Information will be shared as it becomes available.

## Commercial Certificate of Fitness

A commercial Certificate of Fitness will be required to operate as a MDI in South Australia. This requirement aligns with the [Assessing Fitness to Drive](#) (AFTD) standards which recommends MDIs should meet the commercial medical standard. It is also consistent with other jurisdictions and industries where licence holders are driving for fee or reward, such as taxi and rideshare drivers.

This requirement will not take effect until the commencement of the reforms. You will be provided an update on the process for submitting your medical in the application process as soon as we have finalised the workflows for the ‘deemed period’.

## Country Practical Driving Test

We are aware that there is misinformation being shared about the delivery of practical driving tests in regional areas as part this initiative.

It is important to reiterate that there will be no requirement for country residents to travel to Adelaide to undertake a PDT.

The routes for PDTs are being designed around existing start points in both metropolitan and regional areas and these will be serviced by Government Examiners.

This reflects the same practice already in place for country residents who are required to undertake a driver’s licence test for medical purposes with a Government Examiner.

This will ensure that there is equitable access to driver testing for all, whether they live in the city or country.

## Working with children checks

Under section 98AAL of the *Motor Vehicles Act*, all MDIs and heavy vehicle Authorised Examiners will need to have a current WWCC.

If you do not currently have a WWCC, you may wish to start the application process now, remembering it is an offence to work with children if you do not have a WWCC. In addition, if you don't have a current WWCC after commencement of the reforms you will not be able to operate as a MDI or heavy vehicle Authorised Examiner.

You can send through confirmation of your WWCC to the Standards team at any time via [DIT.MDIAdmin@sa.gov.au](mailto:DIT.MDIAdmin@sa.gov.au).

## QSD Guide feedback

Thank you to everyone who provided comments and feedback on the Qualified Supervising Driver Guide. All feedback was carefully reviewed, with relevant updates incorporated.

It is encouraging to see such a strong level of engagement and commitment to road safety reflected in the responses.

### Further information

If you have any thoughts on these topics or the reform, please share them with your driver training association or contact the Department using the links below:

Email: [dit.dtreform@sa.gov.au](mailto:dit.dtreform@sa.gov.au)

Phone: 1300 794 880

For the latest project information please visit the [Driver Training Reform website](#).