



# How does New Zealand's driver licensing system compare internationally?

The AA Research Foundation examined **driver licensing systems** in different countries and highlighted key differences with New Zealand.

The research leads to **five big questions** that we need to consider to ensure our novice drivers are in the best position to safely achieve a licence to drive in New Zealand.



## Research Foundation



### Is our learner period long enough?

Most Australian states require a longer learner period, typically 12 months, compared to New Zealand's six months.

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### Should we require more supervised practice?

Some countries require learner drivers to complete a certain number of supervised practice hours, but New Zealand does not have this requirement.



### Do we need a hazard perception test?

A hazard perception test is used in some countries to assess a learner driver's ability to identify and react to potential hazards on the road.

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### Would tougher penalties help?

Less experienced drivers face more risk of losing their licence for committing a traffic offence in many other countries. Would this lessen risky behaviour?



### Zero alcohol until full licence?

Could a zero alcohol limit for all drivers on a learner or restricted licence reduce risks of impaired crashes?

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To read the full report go to:  
[aa.co.nz/about/aa-research-foundation/programmes](https://aa.co.nz/about/aa-research-foundation/programmes)

## The sad stats

18-24 year olds have the highest rate of road deaths in New Zealand.

They are nearly three times as likely to die in a road crash as 18-24 year olds in Australia.

\* International Transport Forum Road Safety Annual Report 2023

