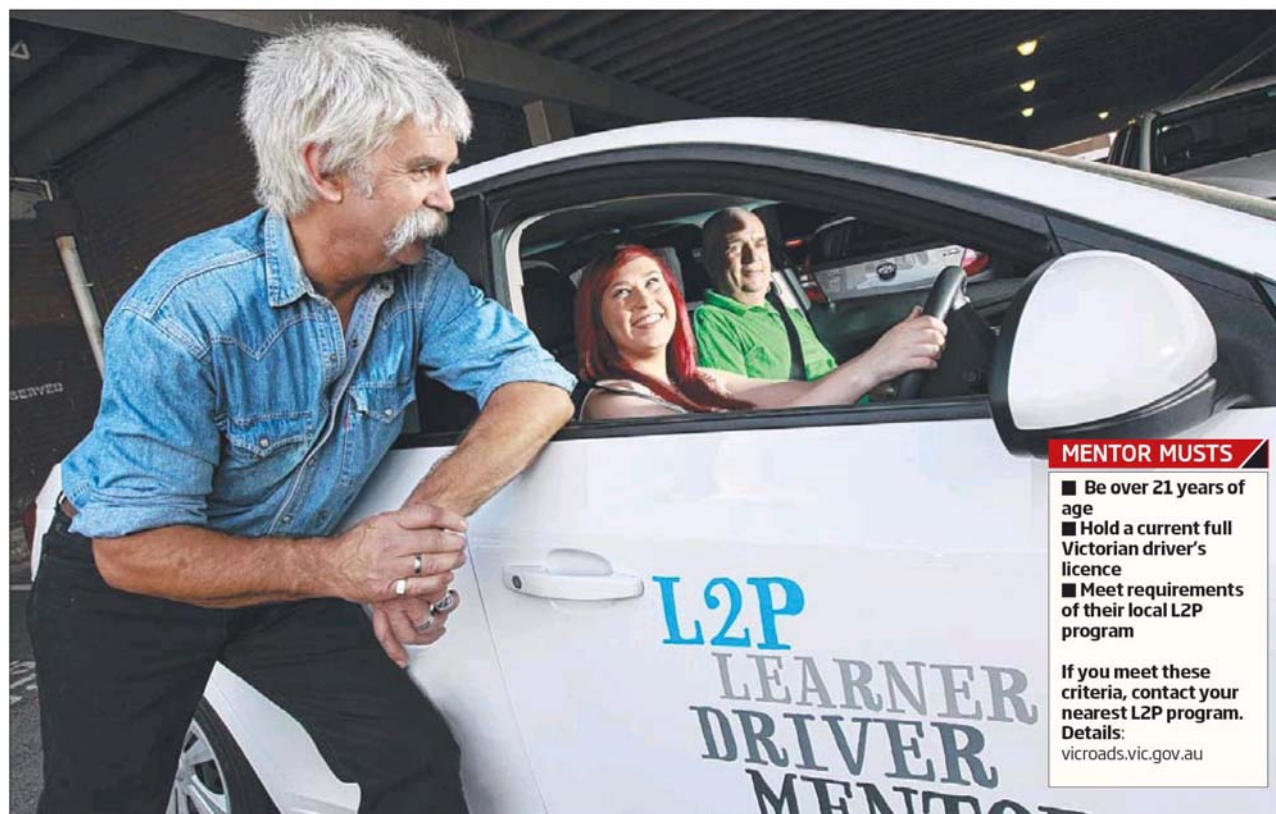


DANDENONG

# In the driving seat



## MENTOR MUSTS

- Be over 21 years of age
- Hold a current full Victorian driver's licence
- Meet requirements of their local L2P program

If you meet these criteria, contact your nearest L2P program.  
Details:  
[vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://vicroads.vic.gov.au)

Jessica Ryan takes part in the L2P learner driver mentor program with volunteer mentors Damien Edgar (left) and Jim Lane.

Picture: RICHARD SERONG N3505303

Rachel Flaherty

## MENTOR SCHEME HELPS YOUNG MUM GET MOBILE

LEARNER driver Jessica Ryan says a Dandenong driving mentor program for disadvantaged youth is changing her life by giving her freedom and independence.

However, the L2P learner driver mentor program is in dire need of volunteers to keep running.

The 20-year-old Dandenong mother said she had no one to teach her to drive and had been left isolated without transport until she heard about the program, which is run by Brosnan Youth Services and backed by VicRoads.

"I was stuck in the house

more than I'd like to be and I don't feel safe on public transport with my two-year-old little girl," she said.

"The money I have is needed to survive and feed my family.

"So when I heard about the program ... it's just amazing. I'll be able to take

my daughter to kinder, go to the park, do shopping and not have to rely on anyone."

The program is designed to give drivers aged 16-21 the chance to reach a minimum 120 hours of supervised driving, required of all learner drivers under 21.

Damien Edgar said he has

volunteered as a mentor for more than two years.

"It's great. You get to help young people who've had a bit of a rough time and help them get the independence and go for jobs," he said.

Mr Edgar said mentors offered as little as one hour a week. "The young person gains enormously," he said.

Details: 99791 8524.