

Buying your first car

A complete guide for young drivers





Safety first

When buying a car, it is very important to consider what safety features have been placed in the vehicle at the time of manufacture.

- » ANCAP (Australian New Car Assessment Program) rates vehicles from 1-5 stars.
- » 1 star offers minimal safety; 5 stars offers the highest level of safety.
- » Examples include seatbelt pretensioners, airbags, crumple zones, electronic stability control (ESC) and anti-lock braking systems (ABS).
- » Safety features can save lives in the event of a crash.

Research will pay off

Once you are ready to purchase a vehicle, research the cost of the make, model and year of the vehicle to ensure you're not paying too much.

- » RedBook shows a vehicle's market value to help with price negotiation.
- » Check for previous damage, check electrics including all windows and any modifications.
- » Modified vehicles may require certification papers.
- » First-time buyers may benefit from taking an experienced friend or family member.

Contracts

Read all contracts thoroughly whether buying a vehicle privately or through a dealership.

- » Notification of change of ownership forms can be downloaded online from the Department of Transport's website.
- » Both parties must fill in the details on this form at the time of purchase.
- » If a dealer has agreed to extras, example; window tinting, please ensure this has been written on the contract prior to signing.

Registration

Vehicle registration is a compulsory payment made to the Department of Transport.

- » This licences the vehicle to be driven on the road.
- » Compulsory third party cover is included in this registration.
- » This covers medical expenses for any injured third party in the event of a crash where you're at fault.

Roadside assistance

Free2go is an RAC membership program specifically designed for the needs of 17-21 year old drivers

- » Free or half price Roadside Assistance.
- » Discounts on fuel and movie tickets, to find out more visit Free2go.

Insurance

There are three main types of insurance cover:

- » Third party covers accidental damage caused to another person's property.
- » Third party fire and theft covers loss or damage to your car caused by fire, theft or attempted theft plus third party coverage above.
- » Full comprehensive cover Insurance companies may differ, please read the PDS from the provider.

Useful websites

- » Car safety ratings (ANCAP & UCSR) [howsafeisyourcar.com.au](https://www.howsafeisyourcar.com.au)
- » Vehicle valuations [redbook.com.au](https://www.redbook.com.au)
- » Compare cars for sale [carsales.com.au](https://www.carsales.com.au)
- » Used car checklist [Checklist document](#)
- » RAC Free2go [rac.com.au/free2go](https://www.rac.com.au/free2go)