



## DRIVING MENTOR VOLUNTEERS

Having the capacity to easily get yourself from one place to another is an essential part of living an independent life. In a city like Perth, many locations are much more easily accessed by car than public transport and having a license can make all the difference for young people working to achieve their goals. However, not all young people have access to a car while learning to drive, or to someone in their life with the ability to supervise the 50 hours of driving experience they need to attain their license. This is where RYDE comes in.

RYDE, or the Regional Youth Driver Education Program, is a program that connects learner drivers with a volunteer mentor and automatic vehicle, so that they can achieve their license, and all of the opportunities that come with it. The RYDE model began as a support for young people living in the town of Bassendean, but has since been adopted by other service providers. Here at Foyer Oxford, we are launching our own version of the program to support the young people living here.

### ABOUT FOYER OXFORD

Foyer Oxford is an accommodation service for young people aged 16-25 based in the centre of Leederville. Foyer Oxford combines holistic support, high quality housing and access to flexible training, to give young people the opportunity to thrive long term. Run by a consortium of Anglicare WA, Foundation housing and the North Metropolitan TAFE, Foyer Oxford is an innovative solution that inspires young people to follow their strengths and aspirations on a journey into work and out of homelessness.

The opportunity to participate in RYDE is important for many of the young people who live at Foyer Oxford, as having a license can make a big difference for their career and education outcomes, and many may not otherwise be able to access a car or adult to regularly supervise them to get one. For this reason we are in need of some committed and responsible volunteer mentors to help the young people enrolled in the program complete their hours.

### ABOUT THE ROLE

As a volunteer with the Foyer Oxford RYDE program you will be helping the young people you are working with in two core ways; you will be helping them achieve their goal of getting their license, and you will also be a role model and mentor whose life experience and support they can learn from as they work towards their license.

It is important that our driving mentors are a good fit for the program, as this will enable the young people participating to have the best experience possible and get the maximum benefit.

We are looking to engage volunteers who:

- Are responsible;
- Are reliable;
- Hold a valid and current WA driver's license of at least automatic class and have held that license for at least four years\*;

- Are calm and confident drivers who are able to offer direction where necessary\*\*;
- Are able to get to and from Foyer Oxford (196 Oxford St, Leederville) and commit to a 90 minute RYDE session per week/fortnight on an ongoing basis;
- Are able to offer support and act as role models to the participants, and establish and maintain the appropriate boundaries
- Are, where possible, at a different life stage to our participants, who will be aged 16-25 and at the early stages of their employment or education journey. However, this is not a requirement.

\*You do not need to use your own vehicle to participate in RYDE. Foyer Oxford has a fully insured automatic vehicle set aside for use in the RYDE program.

\*\*All young people enrolled in the program have passed a driving assessment with a professional driving instructor to confirm their eligibility for RYDE prior to enrolment, and will receive ongoing support from Foyer Oxford throughout. We do not expect mentors to fill the role of a driving instructor – what is more important is that you're a mentor that the young person can rely on and look forward to practising their driving skills with.

## TIMING / REQUIREMENTS

Volunteer mentors within the RYDE program are able to set their own availability using an online booking system, which participants then view and select from. However, we ask that all volunteers be prepared to commit to at least one session per week. Once a session has been confirmed online, the volunteer will meet the young person at Foyer Oxford (196 Oxford St Leederville) where they will sign out the approved RYDE vehicle (mentors do not use their own vehicles) and complete the session, before returning to Foyer Oxford to conclude the session.

We are particularly looking for volunteers who are available at the following times:

- Tuesdays at any time
- Other weekdays any time after midday, and particularly between 1 and 4pm
- Saturdays and Sundays at any time, but particularly after midday.

However, if you can't make any of these times but are still interested, please get in touch anyway, as other times are also needed.

Before commencing as a RYDE mentor, you will need to complete/meet the following requirements:

- Attend the Foyer Oxford RYDE information session
- Complete the RYDE induction
- Hold or successfully apply for both a Volunteer National Police Certificate and working with Children Check (Foyer Oxford will assist with this process for volunteers who do not already have these clearances)

Additional training and resources will be made available for all volunteer mentors about the program, current WA road rules, mentoring young people, and you will have access to support and guidance from Foyer Oxford staff throughout your volunteer experience.

## WHY VOLUNTEER?

Participating in the RYDE program as a volunteer mentor is an opportunity to make a real, tangible difference in the life of a young person. By helping participants complete their training hours, you will not only be opening up opportunities for them by helping them attain their driver's license, but you will also be a positive role model and important connection for them as they navigate an important life stage.

This volunteer role is perfect for people with an interest in youth work, education or community development, who enjoy driving, or just have some time to spare and are passionate about making sure everyone gets the chance to learn to drive!

## GET INVOLVED!

If you are interested in finding out more about the Foyer Oxford RYDE program, or would like to express your interest in becoming a volunteer, please use the [registration form on our website](#). Once you have submitted an expression of interest, someone will be in touch to let you know the next steps of the process.

If you have any questions please get in touch with Zoe at:

[volunteer@foyeroxford.org.au](mailto:volunteer@foyeroxford.org.au) or 0478 035 811

(Please note, my work days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, so there may be some delay in responding to your enquiry.)