



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



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Grimley Queries Driving Test Wait Times in Regional Victoria

State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party Stuart Grimley MP has asked the State Government to be open about wait times for the drive test needed to obtain a Victorian drivers' license in regional areas such as Geelong and Colac.

The driving tests have been delayed as a result of COVID-19.

Mr Grimley asked in Parliament "how long is the current wait time for regional Learners to get a driving test appointment and are there plans to return regional VicRoads offices to full capacity?"

This has followed constituents contacting Mr Grimley's office over many months, concerned their children won't gain their driver's license - and independence - for possibly six months longer than in 'non-COVID' circumstances.

Mr Grimley said it's not good enough that timeframes for delays haven't been provided.

He also raised concerns that given regional and rural Victoria lack the vital infrastructure that is needed to keep communities connected, a driving license is imperative.

Further, if high school graduates go on to university or full time employment, in some circumstances it is a prerequisite to have a driver's license and therefore more important that there is limited delay in drive tests.

Mr Grimley also suggested that the Hazard Perception Test - which forms the first part of the drive test, but has to be done at VicRoads offices - should be able to be done at alternative venues (such as schools) online.

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"Areas like Colac and Geelong are going to have a huge backlog of 18 year olds and Learner Drivers waiting to get their license. This isn't good enough when these kids not only need their independence after a really tough year, but may need their license as a prerequisite for uni or a job.

Rural and regional Victoria is lucky to have far fewer cases of COVID-19 than Melbourne, so it's understandable that some constituents are wanting regional VicRoads drive testing to return to full capacity sooner.

I think the Hazard Perception Test should also be able to be done from venues such as schools and this will alleviate some of the backlog of booking in for that too."

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Please contact me for details of an industry representative, who is available for comment on this topic.