



## UPFRONT COSTS

### Driving Tests

Before someone receives their license, they must pass knowledge, hazard perception, and practical driving tests. These online and in person tests ensure that the roads are a safe environment, with every driver having to show a basic degree of knowledge and skill on the road. The prices are as following:

**Knowledge Test:** \$27.75

**Hazard Perception Test:** \$39.95

**Practical Driving Test:** \$64.95

### License Cost

Additionally, to the costs of the test new driver must pay an additional \$75 for their actual learner's license, which is issued for three years. All these costs can quickly build up for people earning their license, so it is important that they plan and save ahead.

### Buying the Car

Purchasing the car is by far the most expensive cost for new drivers, varying anywhere from a few grand, to tens of thousands of dollars, with the average person's first car costing nearly \$9,000. This large price tag is why it is important for people to research heavily before making a purchase, deciding what is best suited to them.

## RISKS AND SCAMS

### Odometer Scams

These scams involve previous owners winding back a car's odometer (the device used to measure the milage of the car), to increase the value that it can be sold for. Anyone purchasing a car second hand should be wary, looking out for any signs of fraud.

### Hidden Damage

Hidden damages to a car can significantly lower its value. This means that buyers could unknowingly purchase a car with masked internal damages. Such damage can affect the performance and longevity of the vehicle. This is why it is important for buyers to take the necessary steps to ensure they are getting what they are paying for.

### Fake Car Sales Websites

There have been multiple instances of scammers creating fake car sales websites to sell cars that don't exist. They are nearly identical to legitimate sites, only selling the cars for a fraction of the price. Buyers are encouraged to pay in advance to secure the deal, only to never receive what they paid for.



## TIPS TO STAY SAFE IN THE MARKET

### Tips to Being Safe

An easy way to stay safe is to educate yourself. By knowing exactly what you want, and exactly how much you should expect to pay, you'll be nearly impossible to swindle. The higher your knowledge, the lower the chance of scams. Despite all this it can still be beneficial to pay for an expert to look over the car, especially if it seems too good to be true.

Many businesses such as Check. Vin and Clarify provide in-depth reports of the vehicle history, including theft, finance and damages. This protects buyers from the threat of scams.

## ONGOING COSTS

### Registration

The Queensland Government requires all vehicles on the road to be registered. Drivers can choose to pay every month, three months, six months or year. With a year of registration costing \$1097 for a light, four-cylinder vehicle. This payment also includes several other mandatory costs, which are coupled together for convenience.

### Insurance

In 2022 nearly 1,944 Australians lodged claims for accidents on the road with insurer paying out nearly 7.9 billion. Insurance offers people an extra layer of financial protection by paying the cost for repairs after a road accident, in return for the driver being not at fault, insured, and paying their premium on a regular basis.

### Fuel/Servicing

Fuel and servicing costs are unique to each driver, with factors of both the car and the owner influencing how much and how often they pay. However, insurer 'Compare the Market' claims Queenslanders spend on average \$123.40 every week on fuel, which comes to \$1,480.80 every year. This can be a new driver's largest expense, so it is important that they prepare and budget.



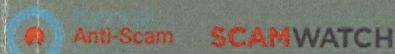
## FOR MORE INFORMATION

While this brochure and its accompanying pamphlet aims to equip new driver with as much knowledge as possible, they can only teach so much.

It is important that you go on to do your own research to solidify your understanding, arming you with the tools you need to remain safe.

The following websites can provide more information on purchasing a car and car ownership:

- <https://www.qld.gov.au/transport>
- <https://www.racq.com.au/>
- <https://www.youi.com.au/>
- <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/>
- <https://www.accc.gov.au/>



Queensland Government



AUSTRALIAN  
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## BUYING YOUR FIRST CAR

A GUIDE TO UNDERSTAND THE COSTS AND RISKS OF THE MARKET