

Parafield Flying Centre

Choose your own adventure!

A Step-by-Step Guide to Starting your Aviation Journey





Welcome to the Trip of a Lifetime!

Have you ever looked to the sky and imagined yourself in the cockpit of an aircraft, at the controls? There are no bad reasons for flying, so whether you're considering flying as a hobby, or pursuing a career in aviation, come along and join us!

At Parafield Flying Centre, we are committed to helping people from all walks of life take that first step towards becoming a pilot. With experienced instructors, flexible training schedules, and a relaxed & welcoming environment, this is the place to achieve your goals.

This guide takes the mystery out of those initial steps, and puts you on the pathway to becoming a pilot. Let's make it happen!

STEP 1

Book a Trial Instructional Flight (TIF)

Your first step into the world of aviation begins with a Trial Instructional Flight (TIF), a hands on, 45 minute flight that allows you to experience flying first-hand.

During your TIF, your instructor will guide you as you fly the plane yourself, giving you a real feel for what it's like to be a pilot. It's the perfect opportunity to "test the waters" (although should we say airways?) and see if flying is a good fit for you.

Even if you decide that flying isn't your thing, you'll walk away knowing that you gave it a go, and nobody can take that away from you. But if flying captures your imagination, as it does for so many, this will be the first step in an amazing new journey.

How to book your TIF:

Phone us on 0431 448 211, or email us at info@parafieldflyingcentre.com.au to schedule your GIF at a time that suits you. We fly seven days a week, but weekends can get very busy, so it's best to book in advance if you can only fly on weekends.

STEP 2

Purchase your textbooks

Yes, becoming a pilot involves some study! But don't worry, it's all part of the journey to becoming a skilled and confident pilot. At Parafield Flying Centre we use a self-study model, which allows you to learn at your own pace and fit your studies around your life, but of course we're always here to help you if you think there's anything you're not understanding.

To get started, you'll need a few essential resources to help you master the theory behind flying, from basic principles to safety regulations. We recommend these:

The Flight Training Manual, Aviation Theory Centre

RPL/PPL Study Guide, Vols 1 & 2, by Bob Tait

Visual Flight Rules Guide, Civil Aviation Safety Authority

CASR Part 91 Plain English Guide, Civil Aviation Safety Authority

You can purchase all of them online at a variety of online aviation suppliers (we frequently use flightstore.com.au), The items published by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) are also available from the CASA website, casa.gov.au, although you will eventually need the hard copies to take with you to your exams when the time comes.

Hot tip!

Ask us for our recommended reading list, so that you can start preparing for your first lesson in advance.

STEP 3

Book your first lesson!

Now that you've completed the preliminaries, let's jump to the good part – booking your first lesson!

When you book your first lesson at Parafield Flying Centre, we set you up as a member on our online booking system, which allows you to choose times that suit you and submit booking requests for your subsequent lessons.

During your first lesson, we will:

- Complete your enrolment and make up a training file for you, and orient and familiarise you with our place (about 30 minutes);
- Give you a pre-flight long-briefing (about 45 minutes), to cover the underpinning knowledge required for the lesson and ensure that you know what to expect during your flight;
- Teach you how to conduct the pre-flight safety inspection of the aircraft, checking everything from fuel levels to control surfaces, to ensure a safe flight (about 15 minutes);
- Take you up in the aircraft for your first proper airborne lesson! (about 60 minutes)



STEP 4

Apply for an Aviation Reference Number (ARN)

Your ARN is your unique identity in the industry. It's usually a fairly quick and easy process, and there is no cost involved. Visit mycasa.gov.au to create an account. Be sure to have some documents ready – you'll need a birth certificate or passport or driver licence or a combination of these. If everything checks out, you'll usually receive your ARN via email within 24 hours.

Once you have an ARN, we can assist you with additional steps such as getting an Aviation Medical Certificate, but that can wait a little longer.



QUESTIONS?

Do I have to decide in advance which licence I want?

We train towards the issue of the RPL, PPL, and CPL. You don't have to decide which licence you want before you start, because everyone starts on the same basic syllabus anyway – the RPL. Once you have completed some of this syllabus, you will have a clearer idea of where you wish to go with your flying, and you can make a decision then.

Do I need a medical certificate before I can start training?

Not immediately, but you will need an aviation medical before you are allowed to fly solo, which is on average 12-15 hours into your training. So you have a bit of time before you need to organise that. We can help you navigate that process.

Do I need an Aviation Security Identity Card before I start training?

No, these are required for the issue of a licence, which happens at the completion of your training. So you have plenty of time to organise that. We usually use Veritas as our contact for ASICs, because their process is very easy.

Can I fly on weekends?

Yes, we are open seven days, but because many of our trainees can only fly on weekends, Saturdays and Sundays are our busiest days, so you'd need to book well ahead.

Are there any age limitations?

Yes. We cannot send you solo until you are 15. The age requirements for eligibility for testing for the issue of a licence are 16 for the RPL, 17 for the PPL,

and 18 for the CPL. We use an adult learning model at our school, which means that trainees do their own self-study from books, which does require some motivation and self-discipline. We do not train children younger than 14, and we require permission from parents to train minors.

There is no upper age limit, the only limitation being the ability to qualify for an aviation medical certificate. Older trainees sometimes have some specific health issues, and may take a little longer to achieve the required practical skills.

What sort of planes do you have?

We have four Cessnas, the 152A, the 172N and 172M, and the 182J. New starters can fly the C152A if they are small enough, up to 80kg and 180cm, and then swap to the C172 for their navigation training. Otherwise all training can be completed in the C172. The 182J is for our Commercial trainees, and hire & fly for experienced pilots.

How much study is required?

Some study is certainly required. If you commit to a half-hour every day, you will make your way through very steadily. There are in-house exams to complete at various stages throughout your training, and a final online exam is required before we can hand you over to a Flight Examiner for your flight test.

How long is the course?

None of our courses have time limitations, but there are minimum hours required. Please note that completing the hours does not mean your licence will automatically be issued – the training is competency-based, which means you must be competent in all the required skills before we can recommend you for testing.

The minimum hours required are 25 (5 of these must be solo) for the RPL, 40 (10 of these must be solo) for the PPL, and 200 (100 of these must be solo) for the CPL.

What will it cost me?

The training costs are listed on our website, parafieldflyingcentre.com.au, but here they are again:

C152A dual training: \$349 per hour

C172N & C172M dual training: \$395 per hour

C182N dual training: \$499 per hour

Long briefings & individual theory tuition: \$95 per hour.

(There are 10 lessons in the RPL syllabus which require a long briefing).

There are some other costs throughout the course, including your aviation medical, your ASIC, a full day of ground school prior to commencing your navigation training, and your maps and navigation tools (ruler, protractor and slide-rule). The Flight Examiner will also charge you a testing fee.

Do I have to attend classes or lectures?

No, we do not conduct classes or lectures, except for a full-day ground school prior to commencing your navigation training. Our trainees learn what they need to know by reading their textbooks. We are here to help you as required, of course. We can provide individual theory tuition for any topic at your request, and we can assist with resources to prepare you for your theory exams.

How do I pay for my lessons?

We do not require any up-front or advance payments, or contracts. An invoice is raised after your lesson, and sent to you via email. You must pay this prior to your next lesson or within 7 days, whichever is sooner, and we prefer direct transfer payments via our bank account, although we can also accept card payments.

A cancellation fee of \$100 applies if you cancel lessons at short notice, which means after close of business the previous day, or if you simply fail to attend booked lessons. If we have to cancel your lesson for any reason, we will

attempt to give you plenty of notice, and we will definitely try to contact you well prior to your arrival at Parafield. Flights sometimes have to be cancelled due to instructor unavailability (although we will try to provide another instructor), aircraft maintenance (although we may be able to conduct your lesson in a different aircraft), or weather (this is at the discretion of the instructor).

Can I continue my training at Parafield Flying Centre if I have been training elsewhere?

Yes, if you were enrolled at a flying school which provides CASA approved CASR Part 141 or 142 training. We will arrange to have your training notes forwarded to us.

If you were training with an RA-Aus flying school previously, this training is not simply transferrable, although the hours do count towards aeronautical experience. We will assess your competency against our syllabus, and continue your training as appropriate.

Can I convert my RA-Aus Certificate to a Recreational Pilot Licence?

Yes, you can, and we have a separate document which outlines the steps required. Please contact us if you would like to know more about this process.

Can I get VET fee-help?

Fee-help is only offered by the larger schools which provide full-time integrated vocational courses (which is only the CPL), with full-time ground-school.

We can offer you much more flexibility, and you will graduate from your CPL with 200 rather than 150 hours, but at a much lower cost! Because you achieve the PPL along the way, you can take your family and friends with you while you build hours and gain essential independent operational experience. Our CPL graduates finish their courses with many hours flying Cessnas, including the C182, and are industry-ready and employable.

If I am from overseas, can I study aviation on a Student visa?

Student visas are only issued to students enrolled in full-time integrated vocational courses (which only includes the CPL). Our CPL course is non-integrated, which means that our trainees are not enrolled as full-time students. Hence you will not qualify for a Student visa if you enrol in our course. You will have to travel on a Tourist visa, which is limited to three months, and not long enough to achieve the CPL. You may achieve a PPL in this time, but the PPL is not a vocational course.

Do you provide accommodation?

We have no facility onsite, we have had trainees stay at Quest Apartments in Mawson Lakes, Capital Apartments (UniSA accommodation) also in Mawson Lakes, and AirB&Bs in Salisbury and in North Adelaide. There is a train line from the city to Parafield, so any accommodation located close to this is usually quite convenient.

Once I have a licence, can I start my own flying business?

Only if you have the CPL, and an operator's certificate from CASA. This is a very long process. With any less than these, you are not permitted to fly anyone for payment. There are strict laws around this.



Ready to get started?

Here at Parafield Flying Centre we make learning to fly an enjoyable, achievable, and rewarding experience. Whether you're aiming to fly simply for the joy of it, or as a career, we're here to help and guide you every step of the way.

So,

1. Call us on 0431 448 211, or email info@parafieldflyingcentre.com.au
2. Book your Trial Instructional Flight
3. Visit our website at www.parafieldflyingcentre.com.au for more information

