Learning to drive with a hand difference

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Outline

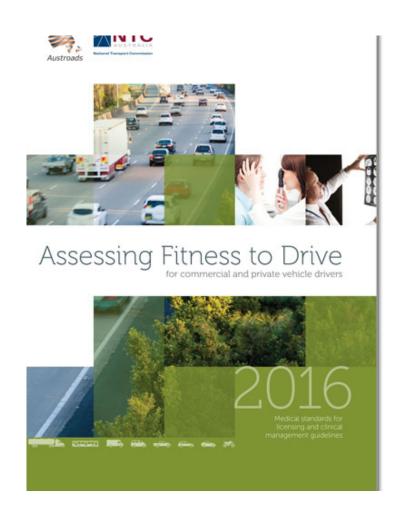
- Identifying when a driving assessment is required
- The Vic Roads process
- OT Driver Assessment Process
- Outcomes and Recommendations
- Modifications
- Funding Options
- Lived Experiences
- Specialised Driving Instructor
- Questions

Driving is a complex task!



Where do I start as a learner driver?

- ► Look at the Vic Roads website https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/licences/health-and-driving/driving-with-a-disability/getting-your-licence
- Discuss driving with your GP or other health professionals
- Study and sit for your learners- declare medical condition to VR when pass learners



The Vic Roads Process:

Assessing Fitness to Drive: for commercial and private vehicle drivers www.austroads.com.au

Section 5- Musculoskeletal conditions

- Relevance to driving task: must be ale to execute and coordinate many complex muscular movements in order to control the vehicle.
 - For example: operate ignition, hold and turn steering wheel, operate secondary controls consistently, operate gears/handbrake as required.
- If there is a concern in any of the above, Vic Roads needs to be made aware either when applying for your licence, or if its an acquired injury, when returning to driving.
- Vic Roads will then decide on appropriate action.

Medical Standards

Condition	Private Standards	Commercial standards
Musculoskelet al disorder	Not fit to hold an unconditional licence if the drivers ability to perform required driving activities is impaired. Fit to hold conditional licence taking into account: Nature of driving Information provided by Drs Practical driving assessment Any modifications to vehicle Motorbike licences will require a practical driving assessment.	Same as private standards-however all commercial vehicle drivers will require a practical driver assessment

Roles and Responsibilities

Driver

- To report to the driver licensing authority any long-term or permanent injury or illness that may affect their ability to drive safely.
- To respond truthfully to questions from health professionals regarding their health status and likely impact on driving ability
- To adhere to prescribed medication
- To comply with requirements of a conditional licence as appropriate including periodic medical reviews

Roles and Responsibilities

Health Professionals

- To assess the persons medical fitness to drive based on Austroads published medical standards
- To advise the person regarding
 - Impact of condition or disability on ability to drive
 - Responsibility to report to licensing authority
- To treat, monitor and manage the condition with ongoing consideration to fitness to drive
- Report to the licensing authority regarding a persons fitness to drive in accordance with legislate requirements and public safety and ethical concerns

Roles and Responsibilities

Licensing Authority- Vic Roads

- To make all decisions regarding licensing of drivers- request relevant medical reports/information
- To make all decisions regarding issuing of conditional licences considering recommendations of health professionals as well as other relevant factors
- To educate the driving public of their responsibilities to report long term conditions

Vicroads ABN 61 760 960 480	SA VK	INSPORT ETY TORIA Medical repo
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Visual acuity, aided R 6/	L 6/ Binocular 6/	Yes No Do you know the medical history of the patient?
Cardiovascular problems Please : Diabetes - controlled by diet Hypoglycaemic reactions Consciousness impaired or hos (specify cause of reaction and	oral insulin	Comments (Reas good) modeal condition and indicate how the golden't driving shift may be directed by the modeal condition. Provide Caracletis, Professional and state, find diagnosis and current treatment, including medication and any likely side effects which is the condition of the conditio
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Mental/psychiatric disorder (specify disorder) Was psychatric teaminat or hospitalisation required? (specify name of hospital, admission dais, discharge date) Musculo-skeletal disorders (Neurological disorders (sextuding epilepsy) Other (a.g. blackouts, cancer, dizziness, metabotic/endocrine, excessive use of actional and rusp, sharing, liver, renal, respiratory,		You must complete this section Yes No The patient meets the national medical standar to hold a licence/permit to drive a car (includes light fusck) or motorcycle.
		Yes No The patient meets the national medical standard to hold a licence to drive a bus or heavy truck.
sleep, syncope and/or vestibular dis	,	Yes No In assessing the patient, I am of the opinion the patient is fit to operate a vessel safely.
Visual problems The patient has seen a specialist(s)	Visual field defect (to confrontation)	
A specialist report is required So	ecify	Practitioner's details (please use BLOCK letters or official stamp)
You must complete this section		Name of practitioner
on road driving test required to determ	ine fitness to drive Yes No	Address
Please specify reason		Postcode Phone Qualifications
Restrictions should apply to patie	nt's driving (please specify)	Signature of practitioner
Further examinations required		Date D D M M Y Y Y
The patient is aware that this form The patient is aware that if a follow-up they are responsible for sending it to V applicants of marine licences or perso	medical certificate is required, ricRoads. (Applicable to holders and	We recommend you send your report(s) to us by email or fax. If you prefer to post, please allow up to two weeks for postal delivery. Email medicalreview@roads.vic.gov.au Fax (03) 9854 2307 Post PO Box 2504. Kew. Victoria 3101 Call 13 11 17 1

Reporting to Vic Roads

What happens next?



Vic Roads decide if a practical driving assessment is required.



Send list of OT's qualified to complete the assessment

Public Hospital Private OT's

Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment Process

- Assessment process
 - Off Road (1.5 hours)
 - On Road (1 hour drive time)
- Usually separate days
- Costs involved for O.T Driver assessment
- Conducted in a dual control vehicle with a driving instructor
 Driving instructor car matched to clients car
- Waiting times vary

Off road assessment

- Based on DORA Ax (Unsworth, et al 2011). Standardised sub tests with predictive qualities of the on road performance with certain tests and certain medical conditions.
- Driving History client and relevant others
- Physical Ax- strength, ROM, coordination, A/B test
- Sensory Ax- fields, acuity, hearing, proprioception
- Cognitive Ax- relevant to driving: road law knowledge, problem solving tasks
- Other- pain, neglect, balance

On Road Assessment Process

- Learner versus experienced driver
- Trial no modifications
- Trial modifications
- Open/unrestricted licence
- Automatic fail if Driving Instructor intervenes (experienced driver versus learner)
- Habits versus unsafe driving
- Feedback is provided
- Report is provided to Vic Roads making recommendations
- Vic Roads make the final decisions regarding licensing
- Relevant professionals advised of outcome

Outcomes and Recommendations

Maintenance of licence

Conditional licence:

- Automatic only
- Modifications
- Lessons and reassessment

On road specific tasks

- What do we look for on road?
 - Can operate steering wheel to complete variety of manoeuvres such as 3 point turn, parking, U turn at roundabout.
 - Can operate and easily access indicators, lights, wipers
 - Need for power steering- lightened steering
 - Criteria: Must have at least one hand controlling the steering wheel at all times. If need to remove the controlling hand from the wheel, this is considered unsafe car control- ie to access indicators, change gears

Modifications

- Steering assistance:
 - Spinner knob: basic
 - Indicator Extension
 - Multifunction spinner knobs
- Other Modifications:
 - Handbrake
 - Ignition
 - Gears
- Licence conditions





Some Spinner Knobs

Selecting a suitable car

- Think about what tasks maybe more difficult
- Ignition- press button versus key
- Side of indicators- L v R
- Automatic features of newer cars
- Criteria for funding bodies

Funding Options:

- There is two main funding options for modifications:
 - ► SWEP: State Wide Equipment Program
 - NDIS: National Disability Insurance Scheme

SWEP- State Wide Equipment Program

- Eligibility:
 - Long term disability
 - Permanent resident/Asylum seeker
 - ▶ Not eligible for NDIS, TAC, Workcover
- Covers up to \$10K of modifications every 7 years
- Waiting time varies
- Only covers modification costs- need to pay for OT and DI

NDIS- National Disability Insurance Scheme

- Long term disability that impacts of various domains, supports, specialist equipment
- Check eligibility: https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis/am-i-eligible
- Can cover cost of modifications, OT fees and DI fees, if written into plan with appropriate goals.
- Pays for DI lessons only related to disability, not as "normal" learner requirements.
- Waiting times for acceptance
- Varying plan funding
- Waiting time for modification funding

Vehicle Modifying Organisations

- North: Franks Engineering, Mobility Plus
- South: Independence Automotive
- South East: Capital Special Vehicles, Automobility
- Rural: Ballarat- ASTEC, Geelong- VMS
- * Treating OT will recommend local suitable options
- Not recommended: cheaper options for SK- ebay, supercheap auto- safety issues

Specialised Driving Instructors

- Have a range of modifications
- Experienced working with OT's and clients with disabilities
- Your OT will be able to link you into a suitable DI
- Check when making an appointment that they have what you think you are after if its specific- not all instructors have comprehensive range

Commercial & Motorbike Licences

- Commercial licences have stricter medical standards (ie truck- other tasks)
- Motorbike licence would involve the usual process with OT input into possible modifications and licence conditions

Useful Websites

- www.austroads.com.au
- www.vicroads.vic.gov.au
- www.swep.bhs.org.au
- www.ndis.gov.au
- <u>www.otaus.com.au</u> (find an OT)

Vic Roads Medical Review: 9854 2390 medicalreview@roads.voc.gov.au

Disclaimer: Check local state agencies for up to date information.