



ATZ Driving Solutions

Finding solutions to increase independence and road safety

Fitness to Drive Assessments

Why do I need an assessment?

Driving is often considered a rite of passage for teenagers enabling a new level of independence and freedom. For adults, driving is often considered a basic right and entitlement. Very few stop to consider the complexity of driving. Even fewer view the activity as a privilege.

However like all aspects of daily life, driving can be impacted by illness, injury or medical conditions. The reasons are many and varied as to why people may be referred for a driving assessment- but the question is always the same; is this person safe to be on the road?

It may be that the RMS have directed the need for assessment, perhaps your GP or for some a family member or support worker. Regardless of the background. We can help.

Common Referral Conditions

- Diagnosis of a medical or psychiatric condition, maybe a physical injury e.g.- Traumatic Brain Injury, Limb Amputations, Spinal Cord Injury, Schizophrenia, Stroke
- Progression of a neurological condition- Dementia, Alzheimers, Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis.
- Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida or Intellectual Disabilities wishing to determine whether it will be feasible to learn to drive- in this instance the individual may be better suited to a Potential to Drive assessment if they do not already hold a Learner's Licence

What should I expect?

After receiving a request for an assessment we confirm that you have medical consent and a current NSW Driver's licence, then book the theory or "off road" assessment. This involves a meeting to review your current vision, physical and cognitive abilities, while also exploring your memory of general road law .

Usually immediately after the theory testing we complete the practical driving component in a dual control vehicle with a Specialised driving instructor. A specific route is selected based on your individual situation. If vehicle modifications are required to drive; we will set you up and trial these on the day of assessment.

For people that do not yet have a Learner licence, no need to panic..you just need to take a look at our information sheet on Potential to Drive assessments!

What are the outcomes?

The outcomes are dependent on the performance of the individual on the day of assessment. However, generally speaking the result will fall into one of four categories;

- 1.Reinstatement of NSW Driver's Licence
- 2.Recommendation for a Conditional Licence; for example you may only be fit to drive an automatic vehicle or only permitted to drive 10km from home
- 3.Suspension or downgrading of your licence until you complete lessons and/or have vehicle modifications fitted; for example a left foot accelerator or hand controls
- 4.Cancellation of your Driver's Licence.



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0428 821 215

admin@atzds.com.au

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What are vehicle modifications?

Depending on the nature and extent of a person's physical disabilities, vehicle modifications may be required to compensate and provide necessary physical control.

Modifications can range from simple additions such as cushions, or auxiliary mirrors, through to engineered changes to steering such as an electronic steering aid, installation of hand controls or left foot accelerator's. These modifications can all be viewed and trialled during your driving assessment.



Car Insurance

CTP Insurance policies (Greenslip) do not require a notification of medical conditions for the insurance to be valid as it is not a fault based system.

Comprehensive car insurance policies will not pay "for loss or damage caused when someone drives a car after they have received medical advice that their ability to drive is impaired by their condition or medical treatment."

To ensure you remain covered it is advisable to notify your comprehensive insurer of any changes at the same time that you notify RMS



Driving and the Law

In NSW when applying for a Driver's licence the applicant has a legal responsibility to notify Transport for NSW (RMS) of any medical, physical or mental condition that could impact on driving. This does not prevent you from getting a licence, but may result in needing an additional form completed by your GP or treating specialist.

Similarly, after obtaining your licence, if there has been a change to your situation, you need to speak with your GP, or specialist to confirm you are medically fit to continue driving.

If you decide to start or return to driving without clearance and are in an accident, you may be considered criminally liable and subject to prosecution under Part 5A of the Crimes Act 1900.



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