

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST DRIVING ASSESSMENTS

This brochure provides an overview to help you with an Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment. We know driving a car is important to your health, independence and social inclusion.

Occupational Therapy Driving Assessors at idrivesafety group offer a distinct advantage, they are highly qualified and caring as well as fully supported by Australia's highest qualified driver coaches in a 5 Star fleet of fully modified cars with all the latest driving aids, and the most successful client outcomes.

Sometimes impairments associated with medical conditions, injuries and disabilities can influence how well you drive, you may not notice you are impaired.

Medical Review (Vic Roads/Transport Vic) may at any time ask you to have an occupational therapy driver assessment to show that you can drive at the standard required. Even if you're a very experienced driver, you may be asked to demonstrate you meet the standards.

An assessment may be necessary because:

- you have a [medical condition](#)(s) or a new disability and would like to know if you're able to obtain, retain or regain a driver Licence.
- Physical injury or disability requiring the use of modifications; Hand controls, FSK 2005, Satellite accelerator, easy drive, spinner knobs, RB system remote controls, Lodgesons lollypop spinner
- Neurodiverse, Autism, Aspergers, Stroke, Anxiety, Dementia, learning difficulties, Dyslexic, ABI, Head injury, psychiatric condition or medications impacting or affecting your ability to drive safely.
- Your physical skills or cognitive abilities, such as your memory or speed of thinking, may have changed recently or over time since you first obtained your Licence.

We are required by law to assess your fitness to drive using the [assessing fitness to drive guidelines](#).

The role of occupational therapists

Occupational therapists Driving Assessor (OTDA) are health professionals with additional qualifications that allow them to help their clients either obtain, retain or regain their licence.

They are independent & not paid by or work for Medical Review, Transport Vic or the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and are registered with the [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency](#) - also known as Ahpra.

Arranging an assessment

Idrivesafety management in consultation with our Registered Occupational Therapists will help you manage and arrange the assessment process in 3 parts, including all training & vehicle modifications if required. Call. 1800 956 999 or email driveot@idrivesafety.com.au

Part 1: Medical assessment

Complete and supply to administration your medical assessment with a (GP) doctor before part 2 can be conducted. Visit doctor and have the form completed and a copy sent to admin.

https://idrivesafety.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Medical_report-1.pdf (fillable pdf)

<https://medicalreport.vicroads.vic.gov.au/login/> (direct link for doctor to complete online)

Part 2: off-road assessment

The OT will ask you about your driving and medical history, test your understanding of road law, and assess your physical, visual, sensory and thinking abilities. This assessment evaluates your functional limitations, your understanding of safe driving, the need for vehicle modifications or licence conditions, and determines the requirements for your on-road test, part 3.

You must take with you to the Off-road assessment.

- Your driver Licence or learner permit.
- Your corrective lenses and/or hearing aids if you wear them for reading or driving.
- Please tell your occupational Therapist if you use or require any Vehicle modifications, E.g. hand controls, spinner knobs, left foot accelerator, vehicle access aids E.g. slider board.
- A list of all the medicines you take and the actual medications.

Part 3: On-road assessment or Test

The Assessment or test will occur in a dual controlled car with a specialised driving trainer and the occupational therapist, after approval is received from Medical Review.

The processes of driving assessments & tests vary based on the requirements.

- **Assessments:** An ability to demonstrate you can physically and cognitively manage a vehicle on a road system at a required standard. Initial assessments are completely different than a driving licence test or 2nd assessment following initial training. Physical limitations, judgement and ability to adjust to traffic situations, reacting appropriately to traffic, abiding with road laws and cognitive loading.
- **Driving tests;** A standardised test criteria is assessed on a Transport Vic prescribed route, that measures performance-based outcome standards at each road user interaction, a standard must be achieved to successfully pass the licence test. Licence variations will be tested on tailored standardised test routes.

A written report outlining your driving assessment results and recommendations will be sent to Vic Roads/Transport Vic medical review. Medical review will then advise you formally of the outcome via email and or a written letter in post.

You can seek further information here www.vicroads.vic.gov.au.

If you disagree with the assessment and or test outcome you may request an independent assessment by another registered occupational therapy driver assessor. You can write to DTP and ask for an internal review of any decision. An independent person will review the decision and reply to you within 28 days. You also have the right to appeal to the Magistrates' Court if DTP has made a discretionary decision to cancel, suspend or vary your driver licence or learner permit.

Administration team are here to help, answering questions and guidance.

Office: 1800 956 999

Email info@idrivesafety.com.au