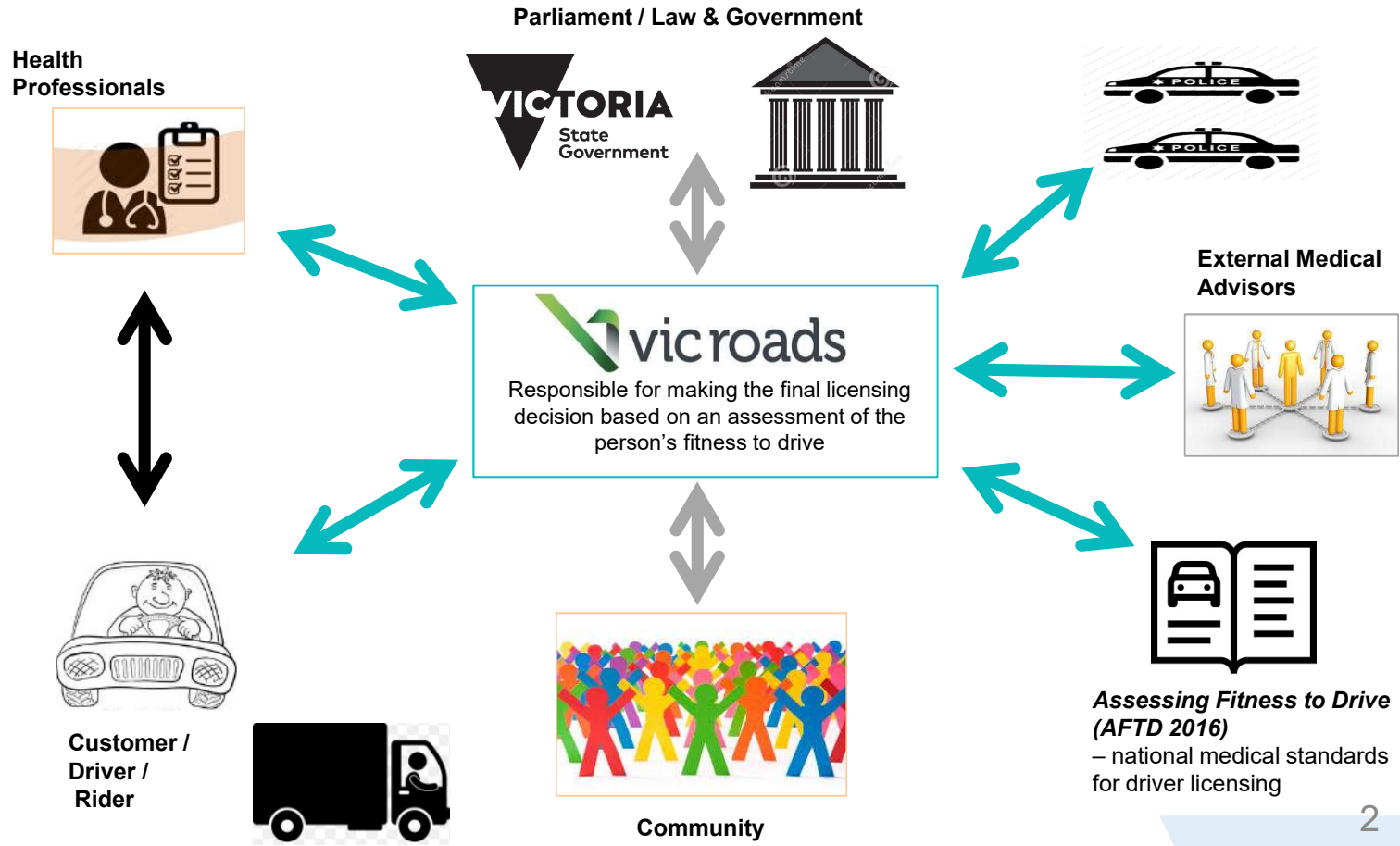


Overview of VicRoads Medical Review process

Fitness to Drive

Fiona Morris RN BSc (Hons), MSc (UK)
Medical Case Manager
VicRoads

Role of VicRoads – *assessing fitness to drive*



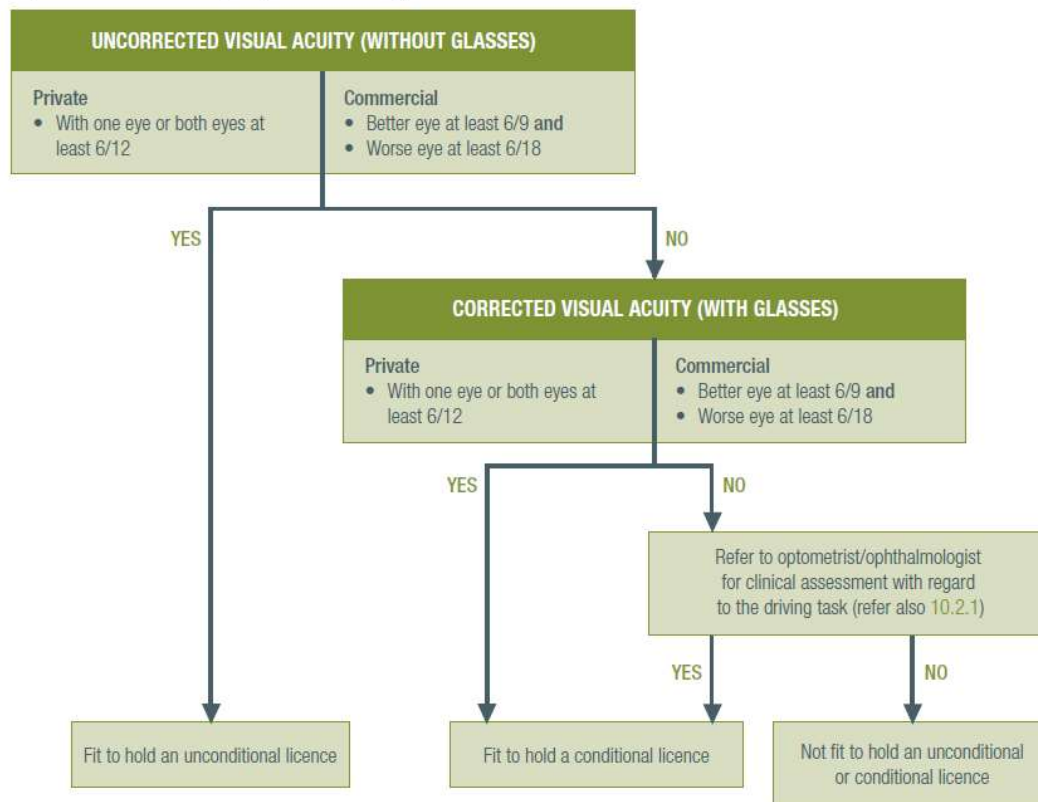
Overview of VicRoads Medical Review process

Assessing Fitness to Drive for commercial and private vehicle drivers (AFTD) 2016

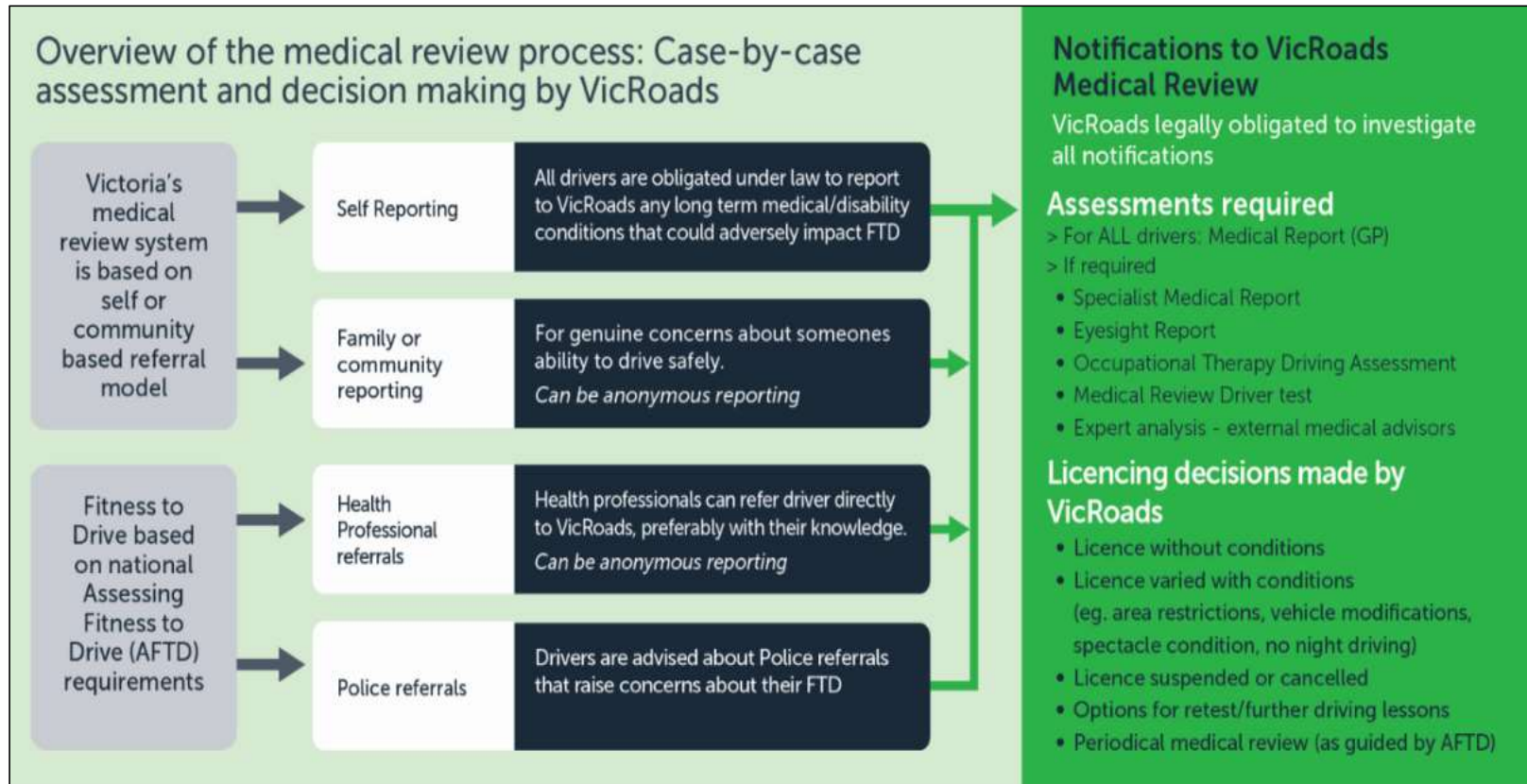
- Part B, Section 10.
“ Vision and eye disorders”

- Visual acuity requirements for private and commercial vehicle drivers **flow chart** (page 125)

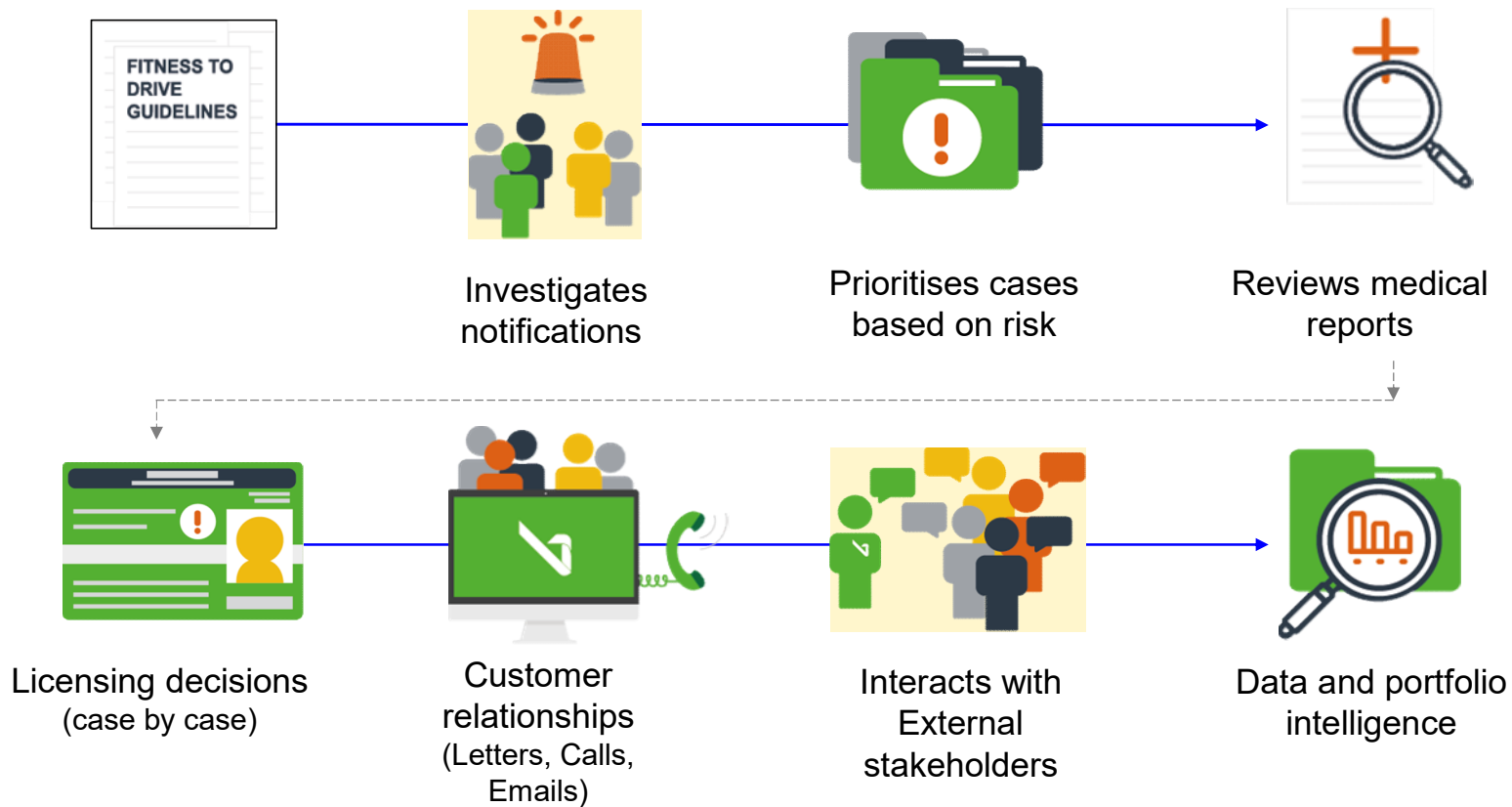
Figure 15: Visual acuity requirements for private and commercial vehicle drivers



VicRoads Medical Review process overview



VicRoads Medical Review Team: - functions



VicRoads Medical Review – policy context

1. Victorian Fitness to Drive Policy

- Its about 'fitness to drive' irrespective of age.
- No mandatory medical reporting (despite coroner recommendations)
- No mandatory age based health or driver skill testing.
- Drivers obligated under law to self report any medical condition impacting ability to drive safely.
- After age 75, only three year driver licence renewal periods

2. VicRoads role

- Administrators of the Policy aligned to 2016 '*Assessing Fitness to Drive Guidelines*' (AFTD).
- Decision makers on an individual's 'fitness to drive'.
- Contributor to National Transport Commission review of AFTD guidelines.
- Participates and contributes to national cohesion on driver licensing (via AustRoads).

VicRoads Medical Review - operational principles

- 1. VicRoads vision is to create a safe system of roads, vehicles, and drivers that supports safe movement of our community;**
 - This includes supporting drivers to drive at any age, so long as they are medically fit to do so.
 - The Medical Review team is responsible for assessing a driver's 'fitness to drive' based on policy requirements and in accordance with *Assessing Fitness to Drive guidelines (AFTD2016)*.
- 2. We encourage people with medical conditions to speak with their doctor / optometrist to understand their health conditions and the potential impact on their driving;**
 - Drivers obligated under law to report to VicRoads any medical conditions that could adversely impact their ability to drive.

VicRoads Medical Review - operational principles

3. VicRoads will ask driver for specific medical information;

- When information received, the risk assessment process is triggered via a triage system which allocates the driver's case file to different risk-based work queues.
- All available information is considered (police reports, notifications, medical reports and driving assessments) informed by national medical standards.
- Complex cases are referred to external medical advisors (VIFM).

4. VicRoads will make the licensing decision on individual's 'fitness to drive' ;

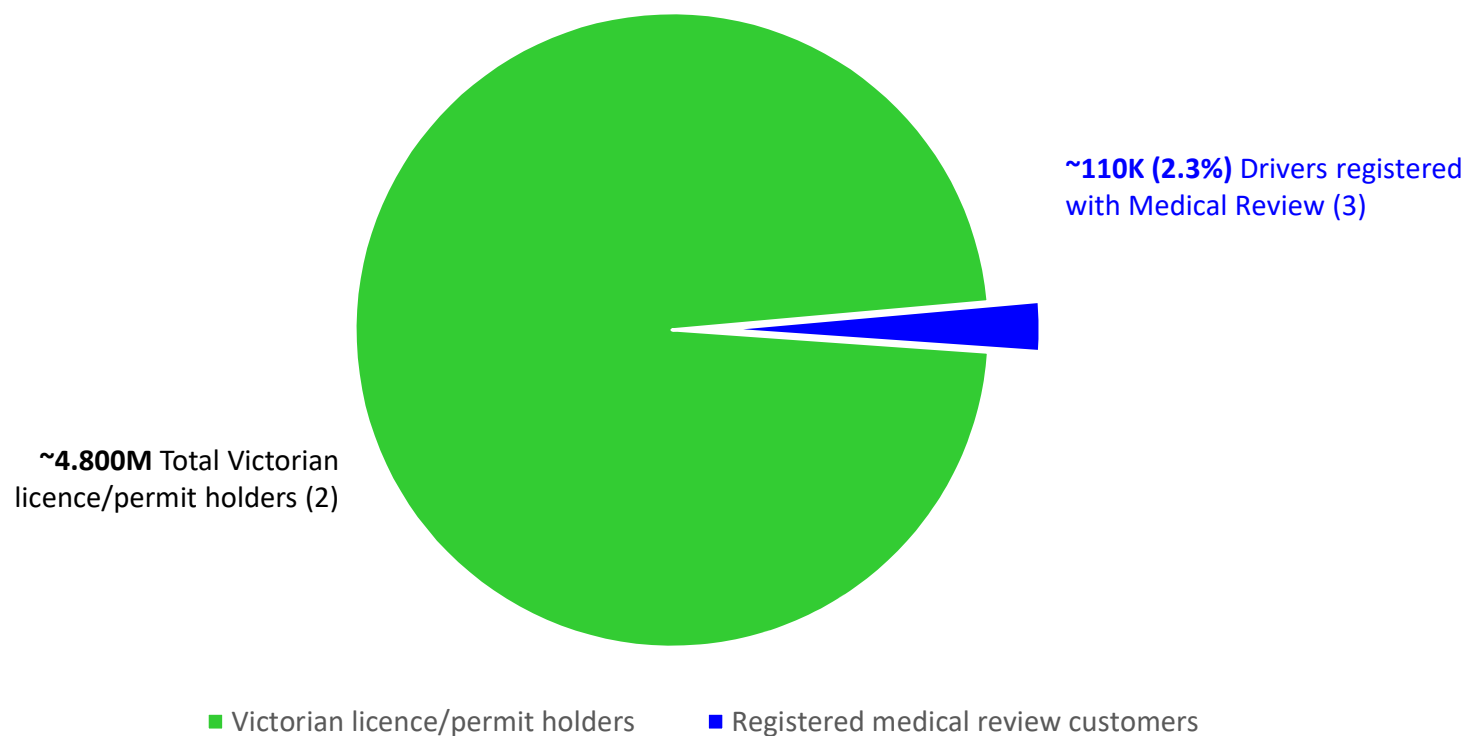
- If the assessment process shows the driver **meets (fit to drive)** the national medical standards, they will be able to keep driving;
 - But may have (a) some conditions added to their licence, and/or (b) be reviewed periodically
- If the assessment shows the driver **does not meet (not fit to drive)** the national medical standards, unfortunately they won't be able to continue driving;
 - We would not make this decision lightly, and fully understand that stopping someone from driving could make things very difficult for them.
 - This decision can be reviewed once new medical / disability / rehab information is available.
 - However, community safety, including that of the driver, is of paramount

VicRoads Medical Review Process (High Level)



1. Customer notified of medical review.
2. Medical assessment undertaken by doctor in line with national guidelines.
3. Doctor / optometrist completes VicRoads form(s).
4. Customer sends forms into VicRoads.
5. VicRoads Medical Review determine fitness to drive taking into consideration doctors recommendations and national medical driver licensing standards / requirements (AFTD).

Total Victorian licence/permit holders & registered Medical Review customers in Victoria @ 30 June 2020 ⁽¹⁾

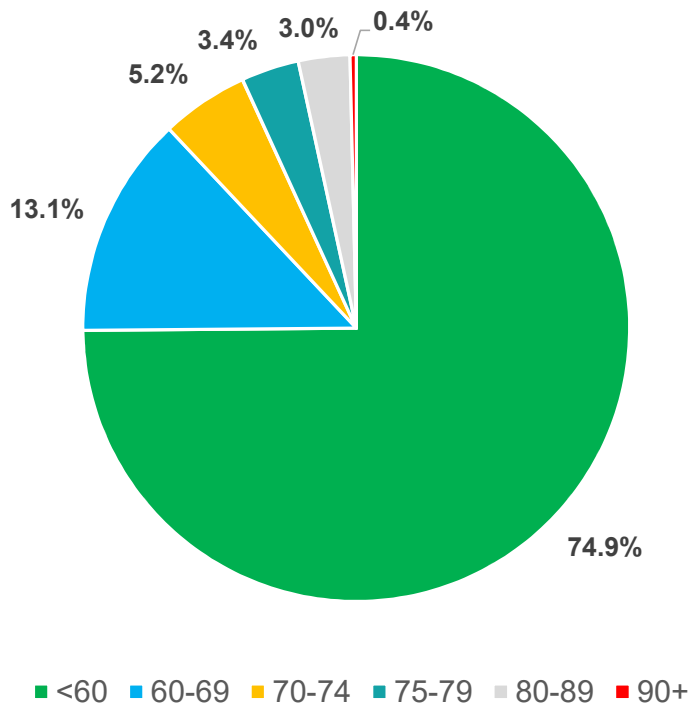


Note:

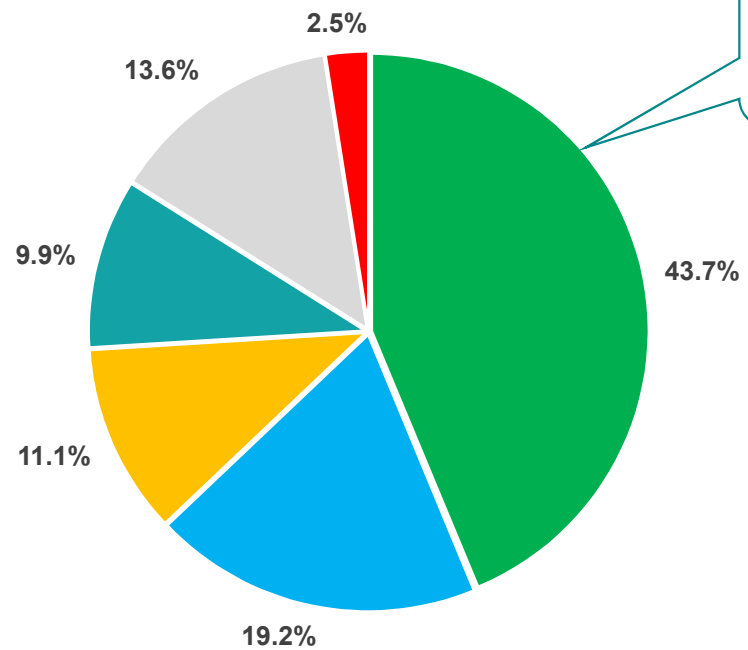
1. Data is a snap shot at the time of the report (30 June 2020).
2. Total Licenced holders (drivers) includes full, probationary and learner permit
3. Registered VicRoads Medical Review customers licences could have any licence / permit status (i.e. current, suspended, or cancelled)

Total Victorian licence/permit holders & registered Medical Review customers in Victoria @ 30 June 2020

Total Victorian licence / permit holders by Age (n=~4.800M)



Registered Medical Review customers by Age (n= ~110k)

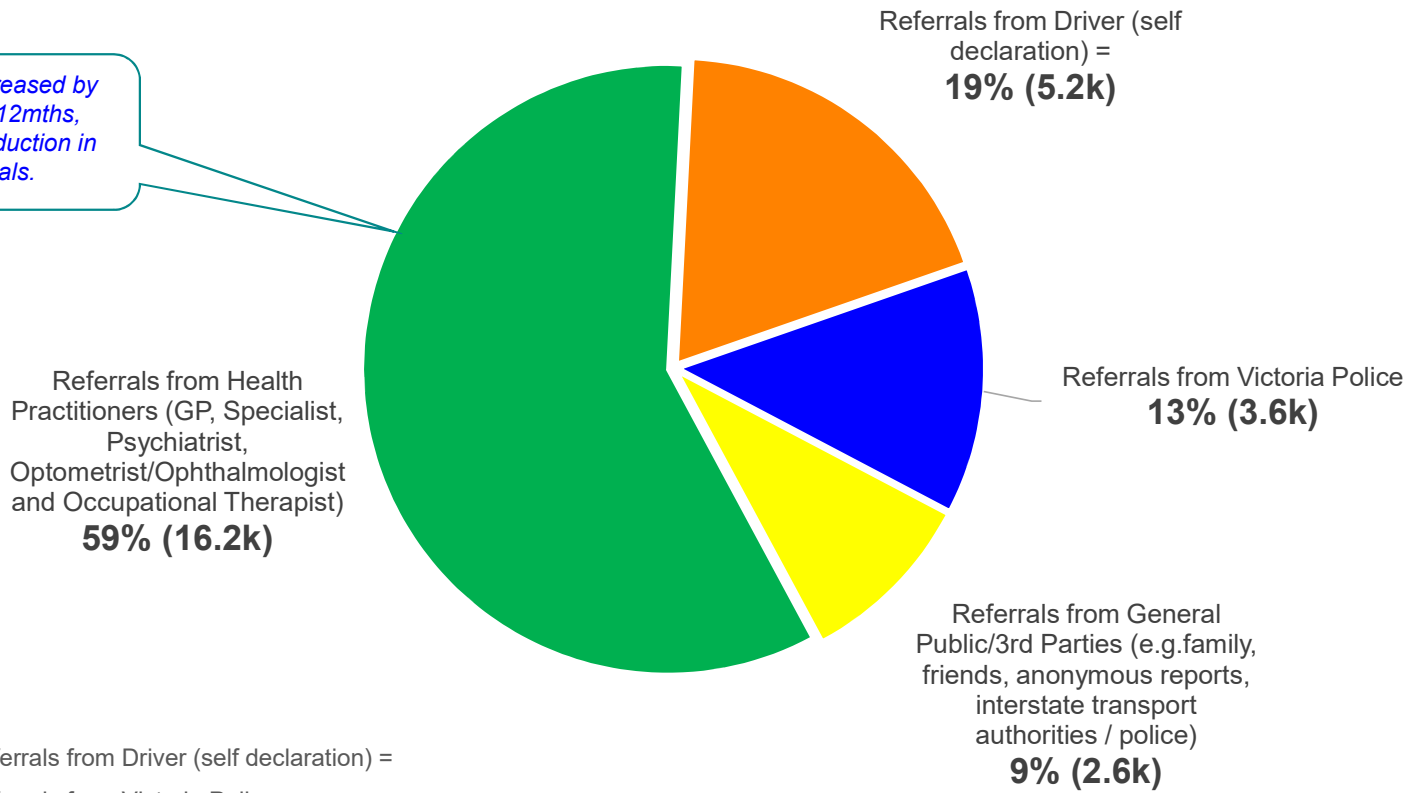


More than > 40% are less than < 60 years old

Referral of drivers to VicRoads Medical Review

2019-20 New notifications (~27,600) - source of referral

HP referrals increased by ~11k in the last 12mths, with a similar reduction in Driver self referrals.

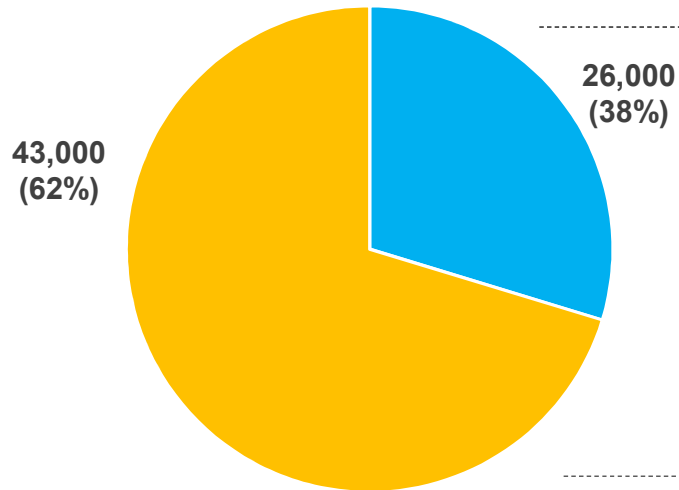


- Referrals from Driver (self declaration) =
- Referrals from Victoria Police
- Referrals from General Public/3rd Parties (e.g.family, friends, anonymous reports, interstate transport authorities / police)
- Referrals from Health Practitioners (GP, Specialist, Psychiatrist, Optometrist/Ophthalmologist and Occupational Therapist)

VicRoads Medical Review Assessments: - Demand and outcomes – 2019/ 20

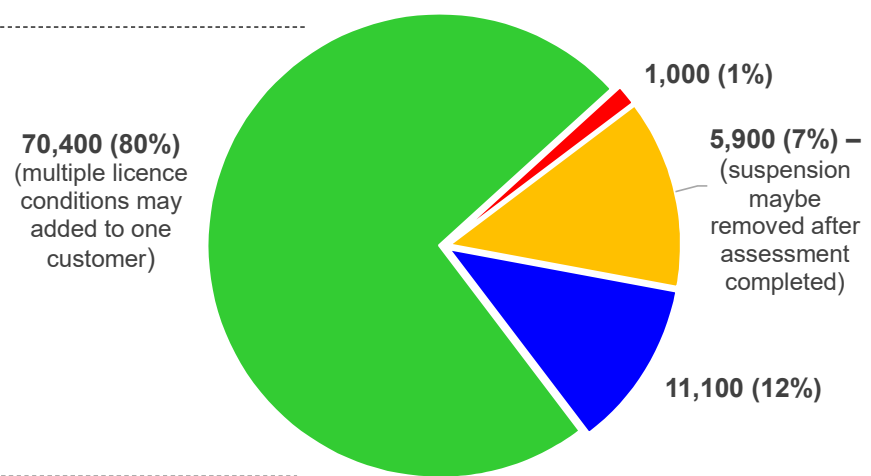
>90% of drivers reviewed retained their licence

**New and Existing Customers
(FY 2019/20)**



■ New customers ■ Existing customers reviewed periodically

**Assessment Outcomes
(FY 2019/20)**

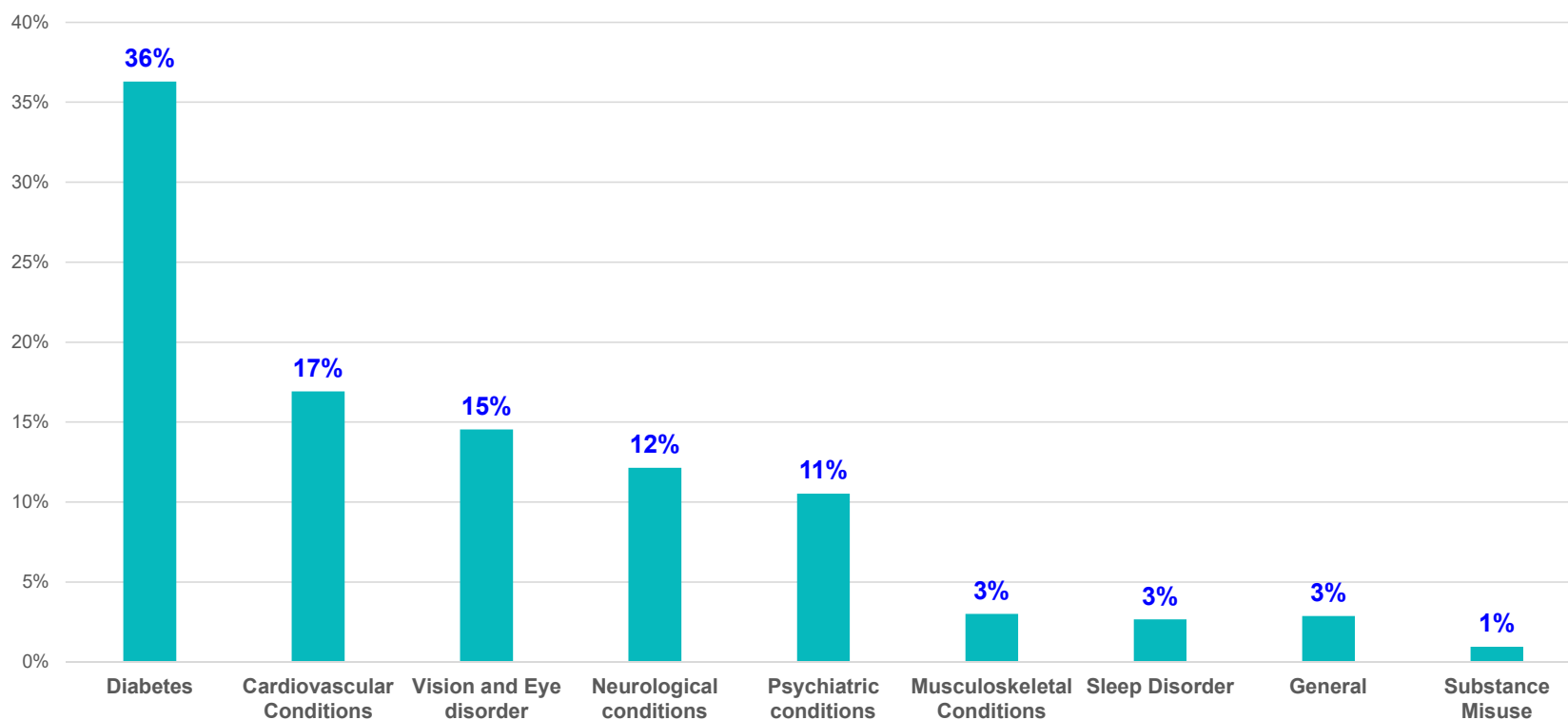


■ Customer licence suspensions during assessment process
 ■ No Further reports required
 ■ Licence conditions outcomes
 ■ Customer surrender licence outcomes

VicRoads Medical Review - overview

Medical conditions recorded as at *5 October 2020*

(for all registered medical review customers with licence status current or suspended)



Note:

1. Above numbers are snapshot at a point in time for registered medical review customers with licence status of current or suspended.
2. Above numbers are sum of Medical Conditions and a customer can have multiple medical conditions.
3. Neurological conditions include Epilepsy, Dementia, MS, Parkinson's, acquired brain injury.
4. General medical conditions include Cancer, Chronic Pain, Congenital disorders, other.

Transactions overview

Medical Review - key stats 2019/20 :

- ✓ Of the **~4.800M** Victorian licence/permit holders, **~110,000** (~2.3%) are medical review customers (as at 30 June 2020).
- ✓ During financial year 2019/20 (12 months); Medical Review team;
 - Received **~27,600 new** customers for fitness to drive.
 - Reviewed **~43,000 Periodic customers**, these are existing customers who gets reviewed on a periodic basis [e.g. annually, every 2 years, every 5 years].
 - Assessed **~50,000 Medical**; **~18,000 Eyesight** and **~20,000 specialist reports**.
 - Conducted **~1,100 drive tests**.
 - Referred **~5,000** customers for OT driving assessments.
- ✓ During financial year 2019/20, Medical Review team reviewed **~70,000 customers** and completed **~88,400 assessment decisions** (fitness to drive assessment outcomes) (1):
 - No further review required: **~11,100 = 12%** of total
 - Added **~70,400 licence conditions** to customers licence (1) = **80%** of total.
 - Number of customers suspended (2) : **~5,900 = 7%** of total.
 - Number of customers that cancelled or surrendered: **~1,000 = 1%** of total

(1) One customer may have multiple licence conditions (assessment decisions) added; and includes S conditions added by Customer Services Centres

(2) During an assessment, a customer may have their licence suspended and then lifted after assessment completed.

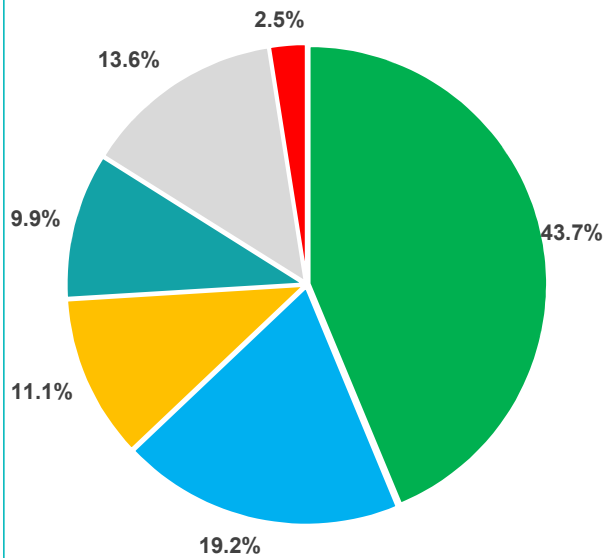
Medical Review – some Vision specific stats:

Question	At 30 June 2020	Period 01/07/19-30/06/20
1. Proportion of Medical Review customers with a Vision (“S”) driver licence condition	~43% (~47,000) ⁽¹⁾	
2. Proportion of Medical Review customers associated with a specific Vision and/or Eye disorder (ie. glaucoma, macular degeneration, etc)	~20% (~21,000) ⁽¹⁾	
3. How many eyesight reports received		Assessed reports: ~ 50,000 Medical; ~ 18,000 Eyesight and ~ 20,000 specialist reports
4. Do we know how many reports from Optometrist versus Ophthalmologists we received ?		<i>Currently, unable to split, but Online report will help.</i>
5. How many visual fields charts received?		~2,000 (or ~11% of all eyesight reports)
6. How many Medical Review customers suspended due to a specific Vision and/or Eye disorder?		~1,900 (or ~28% of all suspended, cancelled or surrendered)

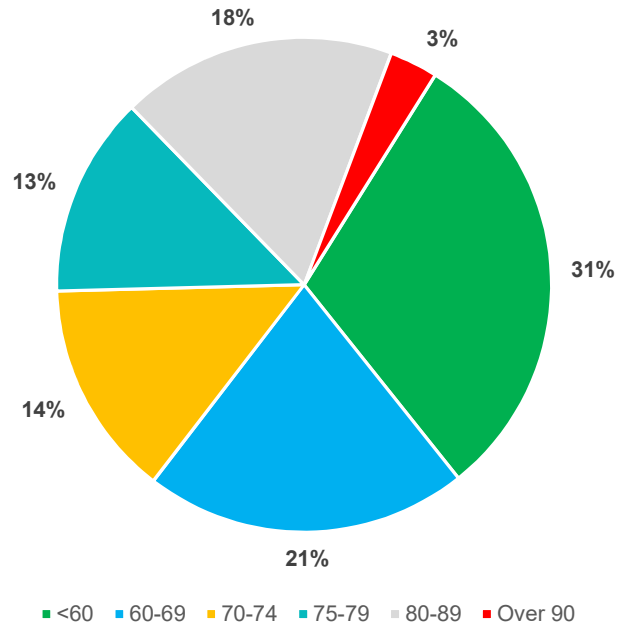
(1) Customers with specific Vision and Eye disorders case managed by Medical Review team

Total Victorian licence/permit holders & registered Medical Review customers in Victoria @ 30 June 2020

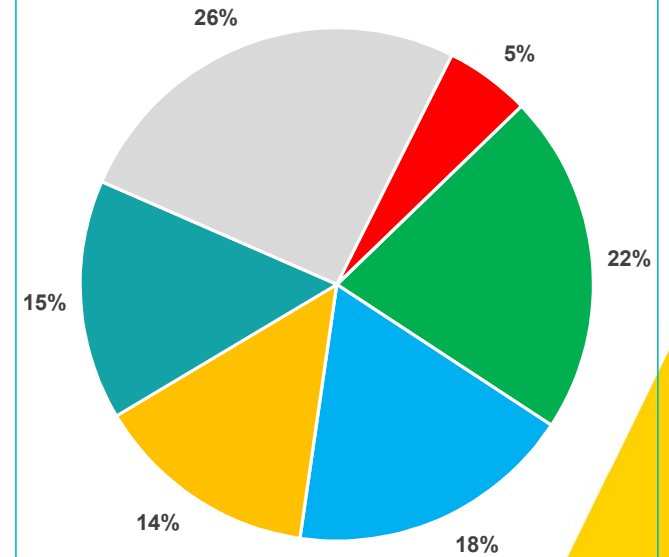
Registered Medical Review customers by Age (n= ~110k)



Medical Review customers with "S" licence condition by Age (n=~47k)



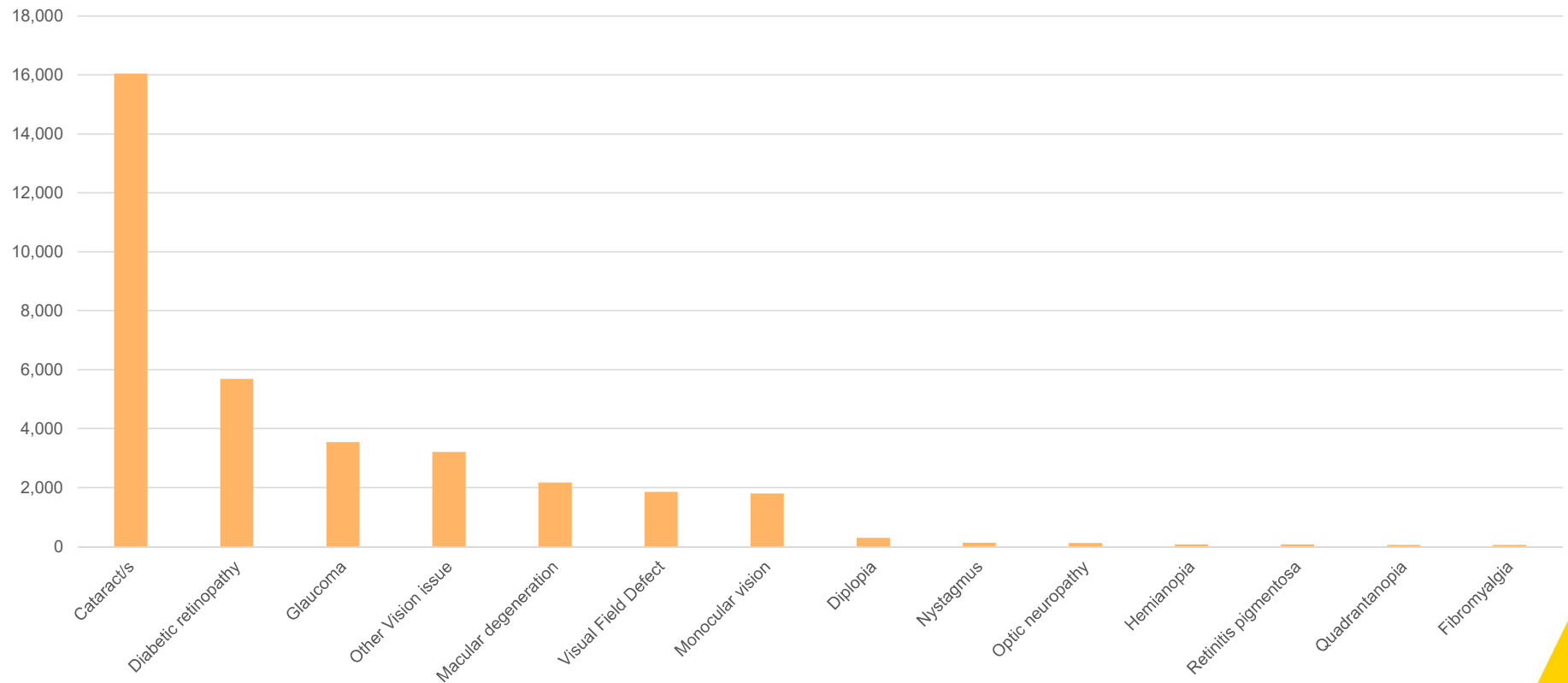
Medical Review customers with specific Vision & Eye disorders by Age (n=~21k)



VicRoads Medical Review - overview

Vision & Eye disorder conditions recorded as at 5 October 2020

(for all registered medical review customers with licence status current or suspended)

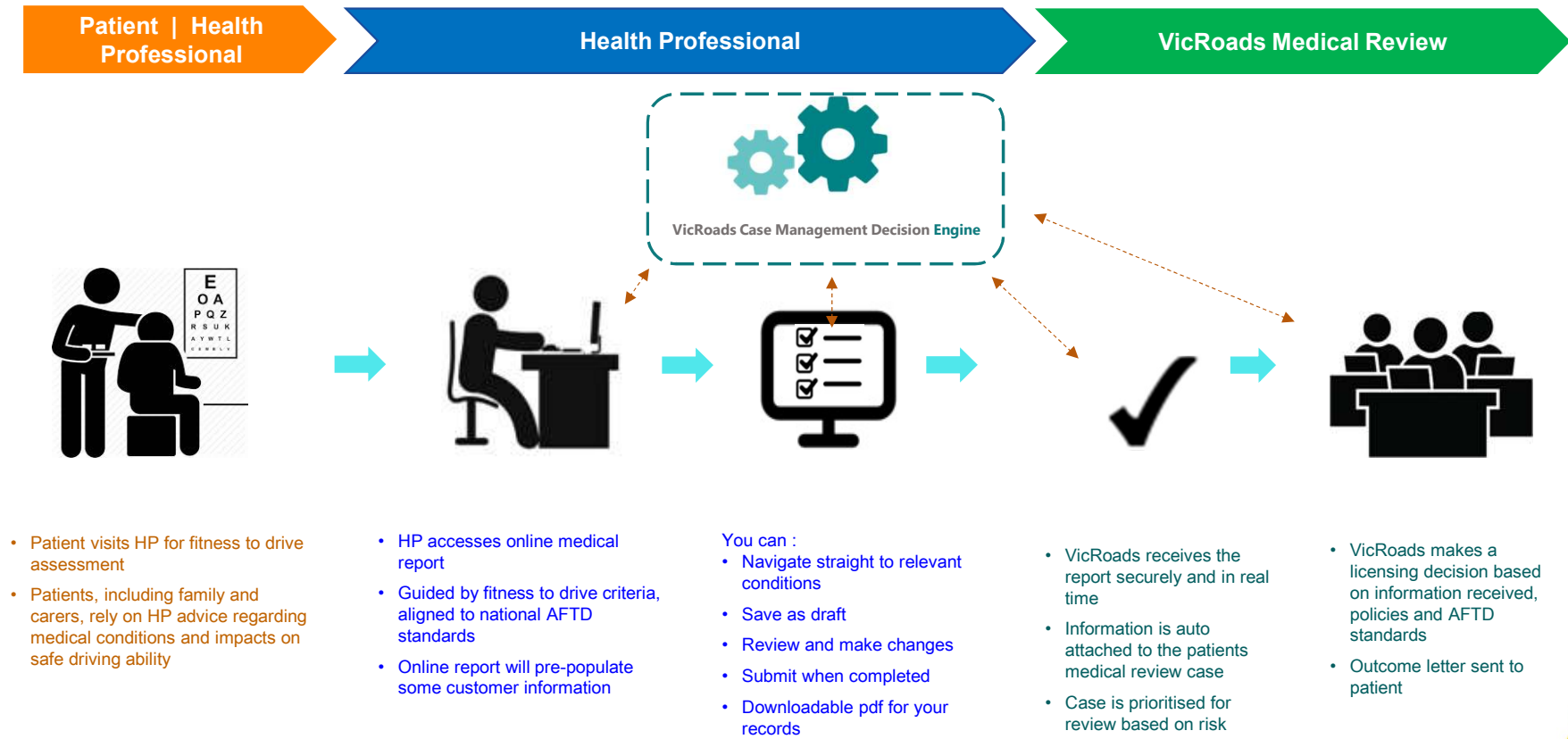


Note:

1. Above numbers are snapshot at a point in time for registered medical review customers with licence status of current or suspended.
2. Above numbers are sum of Vision conditions and a customer can have multiple conditions.

New Online Report – used for medical, eyesight or specialist FTD reporting

- Available from **late October 2020**



New Online Report

- ✓ VicRoads' **Online Medical Report** is a new secure, easy, “smart” and real-time digital alternative to the current paper form used by health professionals to assess a patient's medical *Fitness to Drive (FTD)* .
 - VicRoads engaged individual health professionals associations, who contributed to the design and usability testing processes.

- ✓ Submitting reports online provides more accurate, relevant and timely information, speeding up the medical review process and enhancing road safety.

- ✓ The online medical report HP features include:
 - **Intuitive:** Can be tailored to select only fields relevant to patients and in some cases **pre-populates** patient details and previously advised patient medical conditions .
 - **Compliant:** It's a “smart” report that includes hyperlinks to the 2016 Austroads “AFTD standards.
 - **Easy:** Allows health professionals to save a **draft** to submit later; download or print a PDF copy of final submitted report; and automatically generates a reference number once submitted for patients' easy follow up with VicRoads.
 - **Secure and time efficient:** Submit reports and attachments securely, with no paperwork and no incomplete, or late or lost reports. A health professional's “Home Page” enables them to access all draft reports and any submitted reports for patients in the **previous two years**.

Key Information and Support available...

1. Key information brochures - Fact sheets for patients:

- Describes the medical review process
- How on-road tests are conducted
- Provides Medical and eyesight reports for HPs
- Outlines how common medical conditions impact driving:
 - [Medical review assessing fitness to drive](#)
 - [Vision and Driving](#)
 - Dementia and driving
 - Diabetes and driving
 - Seizures and driving
 - Sleep apnoea and driving
 - Learning to Drive with a disability
 - Medical review driving test
 - Occupational therapy driver assessment information sheet

2. Website key information for Health Practitioners

- Know your responsibilities
- Assisting your patients through the medical review process
- Completing a medical review fitness to drive form.
- Fact sheets that explain health professional responsibilities
 - [Fitness to drive information for Ophthalmologists and Optometrists](#)
- Common FAQs surrounding your role and responsibilities as a health professional



Web site

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/licences/health-and-driving/information-for-health-professionals>

Information for health professionals

Learn about your responsibilities regarding patient fitness to drive and find resources to support your patients in line with the national **Austroads Assessing Fitness to Drive Guidelines (AFTD)**.

Your role is to provide advice to patients, carers and families about the impact of health conditions and disabilities on driving, and to make recommendations for management and monitoring. This should be part of the overall diagnosis and management of a person as guidance is required to enhance **self monitoring** and understanding the impacts of treatment.

The primary aim of assessing fitness to drive is to assist drivers with medical conditions or disabilities to continue to drive safely, independently and legally, and to identify if driver and/or public safety may be compromised. The VicRoads Medical Review process provides a mechanism for assessment and decision making about licensing and for facilitating ongoing review if required. It aims to optimise driver mobility and capacity to drive in conditions that suit driver capabilities providing they are safe to do so.

Helping your patients understand the medical review process

Find out about the **medical review process** and **how we assess fitness to drive**.

Know your responsibilities

Familiarise yourself with the vital role you play as a health professional when it comes to your patient's fitness to drive.

Completing a medical review fitness to drive form

You must fill in and submit the following forms to VicRoads while assessing your patient's fitness to drive.

Assisting your patients through the medical review process

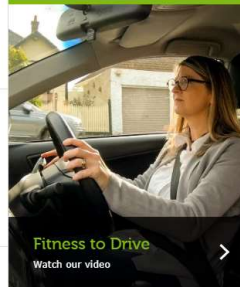
Our medical review process aims to support you in fulfilling your responsibilities when it comes to managing your patients' fitness to drive.

Occupational therapy and driving

Information and resources for Occupational Therapists to support managing a patient's fitness to drive.

Quick Links

- [Assessing fitness to drive](#)
- [Patient fact sheets](#)
- [Health Professional fact sheets](#)
- [Report form for ophthalmologists/optometrists](#)
- [Report form for psychiatrists](#)
- [Report form for GPs & health professionals](#)
- [Royal Australasian College of Physicians podcast on medical fitness to drive](#)



HP Fact sheets

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/licences/health-and-driving/information-for-health-professionals/know-your-responsibilities>

Connecting our communities

Information update
May 2019

vicroads

TRANSPORT FOR VICTORIA

Fitness to drive information for Ophthalmologists and Optometrists

This fact sheet explains the VicRoads Medical Review process, including eye health practitioner and patient responsibilities

Vision and fitness to drive
Driving is a complex task, which requires good vision, judgement, perception and physical abilities. Many health and eyesight conditions may affect these attributes so fitness to drive should be a consideration for any patient presenting with visual system impairment.

Examples of eyesight conditions that may affect safe driving include:

- Visual field defects
- Visual acuity defects
- Monocular vision
- Diplopia
- Progressive eye conditions (e.g. cataract, glaucoma, optic neuropathy and retinitis pigmentosa)
- Congenital and acquired nystagmus

Visual system impairments are usually persistent, and some are progressive. **The effect of multiple eye conditions and comorbidities and their treatments on driving should also be assessed and managed.**

The diagnoses listed above provide a useful guide as to the type of eye conditions for which fitness to drive should be considered as part of overall management, either in the short term or long term.

Assessing and managing fitness to drive can be complex and challenging. There is a need to balance importance of driving for an individual's

What is my role as an eye health practitioner?

Your role is to provide advice to patients, carers and families about the impact of eyesight conditions and their treatments on driving and to make recommendations for management and monitoring.

To assist you, *Assessing Fitness to Drive (2016)* – available via the Austroads website austroads.com.au – is a national publication containing information about assessing and managing fitness to drive.

Information is provided for both private and commercial licence holders. The document is also used by VicRoads to make decisions about licensing.

In Victoria, there is **no mandatory reporting** requirement for health professionals. However, you have an **ethical and duty of care obligation** to support public safety. Thus, if you believe a patient lacks insight/judgement, and/or is not heeding advice to cease driving or self-report, you may report directly to VicRoads using the VicRoads Fitness to Drive eyesight report form – available on the VicRoads website. You may report anonymously.

If you believe the driver poses an immediate risk to public safety, you should report directly to the Police.

Always keep up to date records in the patient's file of the advice you give, copies of report forms and any actions you instigate regarding fitness to drive. It is also important to advise your patient's GP of your fitness to drive recommendations.

What are the drivers' responsibilities and how can I help my patients fulfill these?

You can explain to your patient that drivers are required by law to notify VicRoads of

- as soon as possible when they become aware of new conditions/disabilities.

KEY POINTS

- Fitness to drive may be an important consideration for people with some health and eyesight conditions.
- The eye health practitioner can provide advice about short and long term impacts of these conditions on driving and to recommend strategies for management and monitoring.
- The VicRoads Medical Review process provides a mechanism for assessment and decision making about licensing, and for facilitating ongoing review if required. It aims to optimise driver capacity to drive in conditions that suit abilities, providing drivers are safe to do so.
- All drivers have a legal responsibility to notify VicRoads of significant long term health or vision conditions that may affect driving safety. Health professionals can advise patients of this responsibility and educate them about the Medical Review process.
- In most cases, referral to VicRoads Medical Review **does not** result in licence cancellation. It may result in driving restrictions or medical monitoring to optimise future fitness to drive.
- Health professionals are not legally mandated to notify VicRoads if a patient drives despite advice to the contrary. However they are ethically obliged to act in the interest of public safety. If they make a report to VicRoads they are protected from liability under Victorian Road Safety law. Reports can be anonymous.

Such a notification will initiate the Medical Review process. VicRoads will request a fitness to drive eyesight and/or a medical report.

- You can assist your patient to notify medical

VicRoads Medical Review Contact Details

1. **Medical Review team** (for general enquiries):

- Email: medicalreview@roads.vic.gov.au
- Tele : 03 8391 3734
- Fax : 03 9824 2307

2. **Medical Case Managers** (for specific case or AFTD enquires)

- Tele : 03 8391 3224

Overview of VicRoads Medical Review process