

Overview of VicRoads fitness to drive resources, on-road tests and conditional licences

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Fitness to drive fact sheets available on VicRoads website

Purpose of fact sheets:

- For drivers to learn at an early stage how their condition may impact driving to enable future planning
- To support health professional fitness to drive conversations with patients
- To inform drivers about Medical Review processes and on-road tests

1. Vision related fact sheets for patients.

- Vision and driving
- Cataracts and driving
- Glaucoma and driving
- Macular Disease and driving



Fact sheets available on VicRoads website

2. Medical Review & on-road assessments

- Medical Review assessing fitness to drive
- Medical Review driving test
- Guide to Occupational Therapy driver assessment

- Getting around without a car

3. Medical conditions fact sheets

- Dementia and driving
- Diabetes and driving
- Sleep apnoea and driving
- Seizures and driving

- Learning to drive with a disability

Fact sheets available on VicRoads website

4. For older drivers; Am I still fit to drive series of fact sheets

- ❑ **Ageing and safe driving** – covers eyesight, age related physical & cognitive changes, self-checklist of possible driving issues and suggestions for managing them
- ❑ **Your car and your safety** – discusses ageing and frailty, modern vehicle safety features and where to find information
- ❑ **Your health and driving** – warning signs that health may be impacting driving and what to do (covers medications, medical review process)
- ❑ **Retiring from driving** – how to discuss, how to report to medical review, alternative options for community mobility

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our communities

Am I still fit to drive?

Your health and driving

All drivers, no matter what age, should routinely consider 'am I still fit to drive?'

This factsheet outlines how your health, any disabilities you have and medications you take may have an impact on your driving and the VicRoads medical review process.

Many health problems occur gradually, and can be difficult to notice. It is important to have regular check-ups with your doctor to help keep track of your health and identify any issues which might have an impact on your driving.

Eye sight changes occur as we age: regular eye tests are important to ensure eye problems are detected early to prevent avoidable vision loss. Eye tests can be arranged through an optometrist, by referral to an ophthalmologist, or by speaking to your doctor.



Many of us drive every day without thinking about the risks that come with being behind the wheel. All of us need to make sure we are fit to drive, or we risk harming ourselves and others.

If you have a serious, permanent or long-term illness, disability, medical condition or injury, or an existing condition that deteriorates, you must:

- talk to a doctor about how it might affect your driving
- contact VicRoads to report your condition
- send VicRoads a medical report from a doctor who knows your medical history.

All drivers have a legal obligation to consider fitness to drive and to report relevant conditions or disabilities to VicRoads.

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VicRoads practical driver tests for experienced drivers

Two types of fitness to drive licence tests

For both:

- ❑ Vision must meet Australian vision standards
- ❑ Must meet Australian medical standards

1. VicRoads Medical Review Driving Test (MRDT)

- Conducted by VicRoads licence tester
- No known health condition impacting on driving

2. Occupational therapy driver assessment (OTDA)

- Conducted by OTs with post-grad specialist training
- Has a health condition that may impact on driving



Medical Review Driving Test

Conducted by VicRoads testers anywhere in Victoria

No cost – two attempts only

Format

- > Single driver assessor in car with driver
- > On road test commences at driver's home or from meeting spot

Outcomes

- Fail: Tester interventions due to unsafe or illegal actions
May recommend driving lessons followed by retest.
- Pass: Open area / Local area licence condition



Occupational Therapy Driving Assessment

Two parts:

1. Off Road assessment

- Conducted in a clinic/office or client's home
- Approx 1 hour to screen for potential issues & likely impact on driving



Includes;

Vision screen: if no eyesight report is available; visual acuity, visual fields (confrontation), eye movements, refer to optometrist if issues noted.

Physical/cognitive screen

Brake reaction test

Road law knowledge test

History of driving experience & current need for driving

Presentation title here



Occupational Therapy Driving Assessment

2. On road assessment

- Dual control vehicle
- Driving instructor gives directions & maintains safety,
- OT completes fitness to drive checklist (seated in rear)

Two options for on-road test location:

Standard route – initial practice drive (10 mins)

- pre-specified route in variety of traffic conditions (approx.35 mins)

Local route – initial practice drive (10 mins)

- test drive in local area around home
- results in conditional licence to drive within a specified distance from home

Driving task	Observation	Signalling	Gap Selection	Speed Choice	Following Distance	Lateral Position	Turning Movement	Vehicle Control	Road Rules
Drive along straight or curved road	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Lane change	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Lane merge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Turn at intersection or driveway	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Three-point turn	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
90-degree park	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Pull over and stop at kerb	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
Pull out from kerb	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Emergency stop	✓							✓	

Outcomes of OT driver assessment

OT reports recommendations to VicRoads:

1. **Pass** (unconditional licence)
2. **Pass with licence conditions**
3. **Fail** and requires **driving lessons**, followed by OT re-assessment
4. **Fail** with licence suspension or cancellation (if unlikely to resume driving)



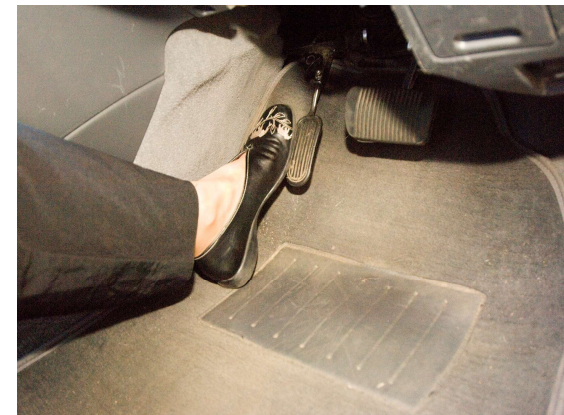
Conditional Licences

Conditional licences permit driving under circumstances that suit the capacity of the driver

Must be able to be enforced and can include;

- corrective lenses
- no night driving
- periodical eyesight reviews

- automatic transmission
- no freeway driving
- local area restriction
- vehicle modifications (eg; steering aid, left foot accelerator pedal, hand controls)



VicRoads makes final licence decision

When making a fitness to drive decision Medical Review considers *all* driver information

Such as:

- medical/specialist/eyesight/OT reports
- police reports
- court orders
- confidential notifications from family

VicRoads confirms fitness to drive decision in writing with driver and includes:

License decision

Requirement for periodical medical/OT/eyesight reviews & reports

Requirements for conditions/restrictions

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