

# moving rightalong

OBLIGATIONS AND  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
OLDER DRIVERS



Information Sheet 5

# Practical Driving Assessment



**Government of South Australia**

Department of Planning,  
Transport and Infrastructure

## Moving Right Along: Obligations and Opportunities for Older Drivers encourages safer, greener and more active travel for older South Australians.

It comprises a series of Information Sheets about fitness to drive and legal responsibilities, driver assessments, ideas for maintaining the ability to drive safely and planning for the time when you, a family member or friend will decide to drive less or stop driving altogether.

### Practical Driving Assessment

In South Australia, there are NO mandatory age-based driving assessments for class C (car) driver's licence holders. As long as you are fit to drive safely, you may do so.

- You **must** undertake a Practical Driving Assessment every year if you:
  - are a driver **aged 85 and over** AND
  - **hold any class of licence except a class C (car).**\*
- Your health professional **may recommend** to the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure that you complete a Practical Driving Assessment with an Assessment and Accreditation Audit Officer. This may be necessary to check your skills and knowledge for driving safely and can be recommended **at any time regardless of age or class of licence.**
- There is no cost to you for a Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure Practical Driving Assessment.
- A health professional may refer you to a driver-trained occupational therapist who assesses your driving and can show you how to improve your ability to drive safely. There is a charge for a driving assessment conducted by an occupational therapist.

### Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure Practical Driving Assessment

The purpose of a Practical Driving Assessment is to determine your continued ability to drive a motor vehicle safely. Prior to the assessment, you will receive a letter from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure outlining what you should expect.

- You can use your own vehicle for the assessment. It must be roadworthy and meet required specifications. If you do not have a suitable vehicle, a Government car is used.
  - An Assessment and Accreditation Audit Officer from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure conducts your assessment at a location in South Australia that is most convenient to you.
  - This assessment consists of a short drive of about 30 minutes and considers your ability to control the vehicle and demonstrate safe driving in light to medium traffic while complying with the road rules.
  - If you pass this assessment, you will retain your licence. You will only fail if your driving is unsafe or illegal.
  - If you fail, your licence will be suspended. A conditional (restricted) permit may be issued to allow you to practise your skills and revise your knowledge of road rules prior to having a further assessment.
- If it is recommended that you only drive a vehicle that has been modified to suit your needs e.g. hand controls or a spinner knob on the steering wheel, you will be required to undertake another Practical Driving Assessment to have those modifications endorsed on your driver's licence.
  - Your health professional may also recommend that certain conditions or restrictions are placed on your driver's licence e.g. that you drive only during daylight hours, or drive only within a nominated radius of your home address.
  - This Practical Driving Assessment is not the same as the one that a learner driver does to obtain a provisional licence.

\*Information correct as at 1 July 2012



### What if someone else has concerns and advises the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure ?

If a family member, friend or someone else has concerns about your driving and advises the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure , you may be required to undergo a Driver Medical Assessment.

If this assessment shows that you have a medical condition that can affect your ability to drive safely you may be required to undergo the Practical Driving Assessment to determine if you can retain your class of licence.

For more Information please refer to:

#### Information Sheet 4

Driver Medical Assessment

If you or your family are concerned about your driving ability, a good option is to undertake some driver refresher lessons with a qualified motor driving instructor or discuss concerns with your treating health professional.

For more Information please refer to:

#### Information Sheet 2

Fitness to drive

#### Information Sheet 10

Are you worried about someone's driving?

### Your legal responsibility

As a licensed driver in South Australia and regardless of your age, you are **legally required** to report any medical condition or medication that may affect your ability to drive a motor vehicle safely. Please contact a Service SA customer service centre [www.sa.gov.au/contact-us](http://www.sa.gov.au/contact-us) or call 13 10 84 for information regarding reporting a medical condition.

Also, health professionals are **legally required** to notify the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure as soon as they consider that you suffer from a physical or mental illness, disability or deficiency, or take medication that would be likely to endanger the public if you drive a motor vehicle.

The health professional does not need your permission as this notification is **compulsory by law**.

### The consequences for failing to notify a reportable medical condition and continuing to drive are severe.

If involved in a crash:

- you may be charged with related driving offences and with failing to notify a reportable medical condition
- you may be sued for any damages to people or property caused by the driver in that crash
- your private car insurance coverage may be affected.

### **Moving Right Along Information Sheets**

- 1 Road safety and older drivers
- 2 Fitness to drive
- 3 Driving and your health
- 4 Driver Medical Assessment
- 5 Practical Driving Assessment
- 6 Travel options
- 7 Buying a safer car
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- 9 Retiring from driving
- 10 Are you worried about someone's driving?
- 11 For more information

For resources and contact details of relevant government departments and other organisations refer to Information Sheet 11.

### **Information Sheet 5, version 3**

Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure

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[www.movingrightalong.sa.gov.au](http://www.movingrightalong.sa.gov.au)

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