

## What is an Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment?

An assessment completed by a driver trained Occupational Therapist to determine the impact of a person's disability or medical condition on commencing or returning to driving.

## Who can conduct an Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment?

Only an Occupational Therapist who has completed post-graduate training in Driving Assessment is able to conduct an assessment.

## How can I be referred for an Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment?

A medical practitioner or doctor should complete and sign a written referral to a driving assessment service to request an assessment.

Our referral form can be found here: [indigosolutions.org.au](http://indigosolutions.org.au)

## Why have I been referred for an Occupational Therapy Driving Assessment?

If you have a medical condition or disability that has the potential to impact on your ability to drive, you are required to report this to the Department of Transport and be assessed by the relevant health professional, your doctor or specialist. They will determine if an Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment is required.

*On 17 March 2008, Western Australia implemented the mandatory reporting of long term or permanent medical condition process which is a road safety initiative. Mandatory Reporting of medical conditions is the legislative requirement of all applicants and licence holders to notify the Department of Transport (DoT) of any long term or permanent mental or physical conditions they have. \*(Department of Transport)*

<https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/report-a-medical-condition.asp>

## What happens in the assessment?

The Assessment will take approximately 2 hours and include an interview about the person's medical and driving history, a clinical screen of physical, sensory and cognitive skills required for driving, followed by a practical on-road driving assessment. This is done on a set route with a range of road conditions and driving experiences conducted by a qualified driving instructor and driver trained occupational therapist.

## Where does the assessment happen?

We have three locations across the Perth Metropolitan area in Nedlands and Westminster. We also operate out of Mandurah, Northam and Bunbury in regional WA.

## Can I drive my own vehicle?

No, the assessment is completed in a dual controlled vehicle for safety purposes. You cannot complete the assessment in your own vehicle.

The dual controlled vehicle supplied can be an automatic or manual vehicle depending on your preference.

## Can I have a friend in the vehicle with me?

No, for safety purposes, only the driving instructor and Occupational Therapist will be present in the vehicle.

## **What will happen after the assessment?**

Following the assessment, recommendations will be discussed with you and a report sent to the referring practitioner and the Department of Transport. The final decision about your licence is made by the Department of Transport upon the advice of your doctor.

## **My Licence has expired, can I still drive?**

No, you do not have a valid driver's licence and it is illegal for you to drive a vehicle. You are not able to complete lessons, or any driving on WA roads.

## **What if my license is suspended or expired before the assessment?**

If your licence has been expired less than 6 months, please advise the Indigo Driving team when making an appointment booking and we will obtain a permit from the Department of Transport to enable us to complete the assessment.

If your licence has been expired more than 6 months but less than 5 years you must attend a licensing centre or agent to make an application for the renewal of a lapsed licence. You will be required to fill out a DLA1 form, and the licence status will be pending the medical assessments completion. No fees or theory test is required. This form can be found here:

[https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/mediaFiles/licensing/LBU\\_F\\_DL\\_DLA\\_1\\_DriversLicenceApplication.pdf](https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/mediaFiles/licensing/LBU_F_DL_DLA_1_DriversLicenceApplication.pdf)

If your licence has been expired more than 5 years you must attend a licensing centre or agent and complete a theory test. Your licence renewal will be pending the medical assessment completion and outcome.

## **My licence is suspended because of fines, can I still complete an assessment?**

No, only a medical suspension is eligible for an assessment permit. All fines must be paid before you are able to proceed with the assessment.

## **I have been referred but do not want to complete an assessment what can I do?**

According to the mandatory reporting guidelines, all relevant medical conditions and/or disabilities must be assessed by the relevant health professional. Your doctor has referred you for an Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment to determine your fitness to drive. If you choose not to proceed, please advise the Driving team, we will cancel the referral to your doctor, and advise you to attend your referring medical professional; this may however result in the cancellation or suspension of your licence.

## **How do I choose to surrender my licence?**

If you decide not to proceed and instead stop driving you should attend a licensing centre and complete a voluntary surrender form:

[https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/mediaFiles/licensing/LBU\\_F\\_DL\\_E55\\_VoluntarySurrender.pdf](https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/mediaFiles/licensing/LBU_F_DL_E55_VoluntarySurrender.pdf)

## **I live in regional WA; do I have access to this assessment?**

Yes, Indigo operates regionally in Northam and Bunbury on a regular basis. There are also other services that operate in Albany and Geraldton. Their information can be found below:

Albany: <https://functionalrevival.com/>

Geraldton: <http://www.otservicesgroup.com/>

If you are unable to attend a location to complete an Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment, you should discuss this with your doctor or medical practitioner prior to being referred to see what options may be available to you.

## **How much will the assessment cost?**

The assessment cost varies for each client and your eligibility for any funding or subsidy. The major funding bodies can assist with your assessment costs;

1. Insurance Commission of WA
2. National Disability Insurance Agency
3. Home Care Packages
4. Disability Services Commission

If you would like further information, or a quote for services please contact Indigo on 9381 0600 or email [driving@indigosolutions.org.au](mailto:driving@indigosolutions.org.au)

## **What if I have a heavy vehicle/motorcycle licence?**

You will be required to sit an on-road assessment in the vehicle class you would like to be able to drive. This will only be possible if you hold a C class licence, or you have successfully completed a C Class Assessment.

There may be additional fees involved for these types of assessments.

Once the on-road is completed a report will be provided to the Occupational Therapist and included in the submission to the Department of Transport.

*Commercial Licence classes will require a Commercial Vision Screen to be completed.*

## **I have an automatic licence; can I complete the assessment in a manual and 'upgrade' my licence?**

No, you can only complete an assessment in the vehicle class that you have previously achieved.

i.e. if you have an C-A licence, you can only be assessed for a C-A licence. This also applies to any commercial/other licences.

You would be required to sit a Practical Driving Assessment (PDA) with the Department of Transport to achieve a licence class you do not currently hold.

## **I don't speak English; how will I complete the assessment?**

Please advise at the time of booking the appointment you will require an interpreter for the assessment. Indigo will arrange a recognised Interpreter for the day of the assessment. This may incur additional fees for some funding bodies (i.e. ICWA, NDIS).

## **I have difficulty with reading and writing, how will I complete the assessment?**

If you have any difficulty with reading or writing, please advise at the time of booking the appointment, and the Occupational Therapist can conduct a verbal assessment if required.

## **What do I do when someone is still driving without a valid licence?**

*For Individuals:*

If you would like information about anonymously reporting an individual who may be driving illegally, you can find out more from the Department of Transport and complete the application forms etc. here: <https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/dvs-alert-us.asp>

*For Health Professionals:*

WA does not have a reporting service for allied health providers. The responsibility is for the individual to declare their medical condition to the Department of Transport. Please follow this link for more information on the mandatory reporting policy in WA:

<https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/report-a-medical-condition.asp>

For a health professional that would like an assessment, it is recommended to write to the person's doctor with concerns regarding their driving. The doctor can then request the person be assessed or request that their drivers' licence be suspended or cancelled on medical grounds.

The Austroads guidelines state that "Doctors also have an obligation to public safety so your doctor may report directly to the Driver Licensing Authority if he or she feels your condition poses a significant threat to public safety." You can find more information here:

<http://www.austroads.com.au/drivers-vehicles/assessing-fitness-to-drive/for-private-vehicle-drivers/faq>

**I've had an accident but haven't reported my medical condition or disability to my insurance?**

You may not be insured if you have not disclosed your medical condition to your insurer, you should always follow the mandatory reporting guidelines to ensure your safety on the road and disclose your medical status to your vehicle insurer.

**I don't have a licence anymore, but I still need a photo ID, what do I do?**

When handing in your licence, you can apply for a Photo ID card which acts as proof of identity the same way a drivers licence does, find the form here:

[https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/mediaFiles/licensing/LBU\\_F\\_PC1\\_PhotoCard.pdf](https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/mediaFiles/licensing/LBU_F_PC1_PhotoCard.pdf)

If you have any questions about the Photocard ID you can contact the Department of Transport. More information about Photo cards can be found here:

<https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/photo-card.asp>

**If I can't drive anymore, is there anything to help me arrange transport?**

Yes there is, you can find information in relation to subsidies and schemes for people in WA here:

<https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/On-demandTransport/travel-subsidies.asp>

If you would like more information about transport for people with disabilities you can find the Department of Transport resources here:

<https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/On-demandTransport/transport-for-people-with-a-disability.asp>

Our Assessment standards adhere to the Austroads and the National Transport Commission Fitness to Drive standards. Please find their PDF <https://www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/items/AP-G56-17>