

Care and Support.

Transport



Driver's licence

In South Australia drivers aged 75 and older who do not have a pre-existing medical condition and hold a class 'C' (car) driver's licence only need to complete a self-assessment of their fitness to drive. However all drivers regardless of age, are required by law to report any medical condition that could affect their ability to drive safely and those who currently have a medical condition are also required to undergo regular medical assessments. Health professionals (e.g. GP) are required to notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles if a patient suffers a medical condition that could affect their ability to drive safely and may recommend a practical driving test.

The **Royal Automobile Association's** CarFit is a free educational program providing advice and information to beginners and experience drivers about individual modifications or adjustments that may need to be made to a car to maximise safety and comfort. Sessions are held by trained professionals. Tel. **8202 4221** to book; www.raa.com.au/carfit RAA's website features resources on safe driving including fitness to drive for seniors.

Proof of Age Cards

Individuals who no longer have a driver's licence may obtain this photo ID card, which shows their date of birth, from Transport SA. A once-only fee applies. Contact **Service SA, tel. 13 10 84**, www.sa.gov.au/topics/driving-and-transport/drivers-and-licences/proof-of-age-card.

Alternatives to driving

The loss of a driver's licence may be distressing and may possibly lead to isolation and loneliness. Some options that may help individuals who might otherwise be housebound are discussed here.

Powered wheelchairs and scooters – The same road rules for pedestrians apply if the scooter doesn't travel at a speed greater than 10 km/hr on level ground and is being used by a person who has difficulty walking. If the scooter can reach higher speeds the person can still use the footpath if speed is kept within the limit above and the vehicle has an unladen (empty) weight not exceeding 110 kg. A registration or licence is not required in the cases above if the scooter meets specific weight and performance criteria.

If considering purchasing such an item, a visit to the **Independent Living Centre (ILC)** in Gilles Plains, may help. Staff can assist with professional advice and there is a display of equipment, including scooters.

Tel. **8266 5260, 1300 885 886**, email

ilcsa@sa.gov.au. The Independent Living Centres Australia's website features information on powered scooters - <https://ilcaustralia.org.au>.

See also the South Australian Government's information sheet [Motorised Mobility Scooters](#).

Public transport

Regular trains, trams and most metropolitan buses are wheelchair-accessible. To find out if an accessible bus is rostered for the route and time of your journey, call **Adelaide Metro** on **1300 311 108**.

This contact centre also provides information on all Adelaide Metro bus, train and tram services including timetables, ticket sales, route details and taxi connections. www.adelaidemetro.com.au.

Transport concessions

You must carry your concession card and produce it as required.

For Pensioner Concession Card holders using Adelaide metropolitan public transport, provincial cities and country bus services, usually 50% concession. For Seniors Card holders, free travel on weekdays 9.01am - 3pm, 7pm - 7am, all day on weekends, public holidays, 50% concession at all other times.

Seniors Card holders travelling interstate will also receive concessions on public and government-subsidised transport. Check the relevant Seniors Card unit, details at www.australia.gov.au/content/seniors-card.

Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) provides eligible persons and their medically required attendants assistance with their transport when travelling for approved medical treatment. Tel. **1800 550 455**.

Special needs

Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS) provides financial help to those in rural areas who need to travel over 100 km (each way) to receive specialist medical treatment in SA. Contact **Country Health SA** on **1300 341 684** or email CHSAPATS@sa.gov.au. It is possible to apply for the subsidy online; register at <https://pats.force.com>.

Australian disability parking permits enable people with a permanent or temporary physical impairment (likely to last over six months) to use car parking spaces reserved for people with a disability. A doctor's assessment is required. Tel. **Service SA, 13 10 84** or visit www.sa.gov.au.

South Australian Transport Subsidy Scheme (SATSS) - provides taxi vouchers for people whose

Care and Support. Transport



disability limits their ability to use public transport independently. Applicants who may be eligible for support through the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) are required to be assessed through that Agency in the first instance.

Subsidies cover 50% (or 75% for those requiring wheelchair-accessible taxis) of the first \$40 of a taxi fare. SATSS vouchers can be used in conventional or wheelchair-accessible taxis. Wheelchair-accessible taxis are mostly found in the metropolitan areas. Adelaide Access Taxis (tel.1300 360 940) co-ordinate and dispatch the wheelchair-accessible taxi bookings. All Australian states and territories have similar taxi subsidy schemes and SATSS vouchers can be used.

Plus One FREE COMPANION card: for people with a disability who are unable to use public transport independently. The companion/carer will travel free. For information and application forms on the above programs, **tel. SATSS 1300 360 840** or download from the website www.sa.gov.au.

Help with using public transport

Travel Pass for Person with Vision

Impairment entitles card holders to travel free on all Adelaide Metro bus, train and tram services.

Mobility Pass (metrocard Special Pass) - for people unable to validate a ticket using on-board equipment due to a physical or cognitive impairment.

For information on both passes and/or application forms contact **Adelaide Metro, tel. 1300 311 108**, or visit www.sa.gov.au. This website features the section on *Getting around with a disability or mobility aid*, which contains information and links to applications forms for the various South Australian Government schemes.

Driver assessment and retraining

Occupational Therapy Australia's website includes a search facility whereby it is possible to search for private practitioners qualified to conduct a driving assessment. www.otaus.com.au/find-an-occupational-therapist

A public **Driving Fitness Assessment Clinic** is available at the Flinders Medical Centre for people who need to be medically assessed for physical, visual, cognitive and psychological fitness to continue/return to driving. **Tel. 8404 2269**.

Community transport services

Local council - Many local councils provide community buses that call door to door and may be wheelchair-accessible. They may offer scheduled

shopping trips and possibly take people to day centres or other activities. A minimal fare is charged.

Community Passenger Networks provide transport information, coordination and brokerage service for transport-disadvantaged people.

Barossa Regional, tel. 8563 8411

Eastern Metro, tel. 8100 4549

Eyre Peninsula, tel. 1300 306 551 (Port Lincoln), **8625 3852** (Ceduna)

Hills Community Transport, tel. 8391 7234

Inner Southern Metro, tel. 8375 6769

Mid North, tel. 8842 1677

Murray Mallee, tel. 8572 4288

Murray Transport Connections (Murray Bridge and Mid Murray councils), **tel. 8100 4603**

Northern Metro, tel., 8256 0133

Northern Region (country), **tel. 8666 2255**

Onkaparinga, tel. 1300 365 729

Riverland, tel. 1800 334 882

South East, tel. 8725 3622

Southern Communities Transport Scheme (Victor Harbor and part of Alexandrina Council), **tel. 8551 0760**

Yorke Peninsula, tel. 1300 132 932

Tools to find your local Community Passenger Network can be found on the website of the **South Australian Community Transport Association:** www.sacta.org.au.

Commonwealth Home Support Program –

Through this Australian Government-funded program some transport support may be available for eligible people over 65 years of age (50 for indigenous people) to attend medical appointments and to access community services. Referral from **My Aged Care (tel. 1800 200 422)** is required.

Australian Red Cross (SA Division) - Transport Service is provided for people who have a disability or are aged and do not have any other way to attend medical appointments. **Tel. 1800 246 850**. For people over 65 years of age (50 for indigenous people) referral from **My Aged Care** is required (see above).

Catalyst Foundation is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health. Visit the website www.agedcare.health.gov.au for more information. Although funding for this publication has been provided by the Australian Government, the material contained herein does not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Australian Government.

Updated December 2018