

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.

Moving Right Along: Obligations and Opportunities for Older Drivers is a resource developed by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport. It provides information on issues facing older drivers, driving safely, and alternatives to driving. The booklet can be downloaded from <https://mylicence.sa.gov.au/safe-driving-tips/older-drivers>. Alternatively request a copy of the booklet by phone 8343 2644 or email dpti.movingrightalong@sa.gov.au.

Driver assessment and retraining

The Occupational Therapy Australia's website includes a search facility whereby it is possible to search for private practitioners qualified to conduct a driving assessment.

<https://otaus.com.au/find-an-ot>

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.**

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, issued by the State Government. Contact **Service SA, tel. 13 10 84**

or visit www.sa.gov.au/topics/driving-and-transport/licences/proof-of-age-card

Alternatives to driving

The loss of a driver's licence may be distressing and 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 Australian Road Rules state that a person using a mobility scooter is classed as a pedestrian if the maximum speed on level ground cannot exceed 10 km/h.

As such the rider does not need to have a driver's licence, but:

- must observe the same road rules that apply to pedestrians
- must not obstruct the path of any driver or other road user
- must not travel along a road if there is a footpath or nature strip adjacent to the road, unless it is impracticable to use the footpath or nature strip

The information above and other useful guidance can be found on the information sheet '*Motorised mobility scooters*' published by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport.

Public transport

All regular trains and trams, and most metropolitan buses are wheelchair-accessible. To find out if an accessible bus is rostered for the route and time you want to make your journey, phone 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 and route details.

Transport concessions

Pensioner Concession Card holders using Adelaide metropolitan public transport, provincial cities and country bus services are

Care and Support

Transport

usually entitled to a 50% concession. People receiving other benefits may also be eligible for concessions but need to apply for a Transport Concession Card. Tel. **1800 667 110** or visit www.sa.gov.au/topics/care-and-support/concessions/transport/transport-concessions

Seniors Card holders are entitled to free travel at all times in Adelaide Metro system. When travelling interstate they will also receive concessions on public transport. Check the relevant state's Seniors Card unit.

Special needs

Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS)

is a subsidy program funded by the State Government and administered through the six regional local health networks by the Rural Support Service in SA Health. PATS can contribute to the cost of accommodation and travel for those in rural areas who need to travel over 100 km (each way) to receive specialist medical treatment in SA. Contact **SA Health** on **1300 341 684** or email PATS@sa.gov.au. It is possible to apply for the subsidy on line at www.pats.sa.gov.au.

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/topics/driving-and-transport/disability/disability-parking-permit.

South Australian Transport Subsidy Scheme (SATSS)

- provides taxi fare subsidy for people (mostly aged 65 years and over) whose disability/frailty limits their ability to safely use public transport. People aged 16 - 64 years may be eligible but will need to apply to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Subsidies cover 50% (or 75% for those who are confined to a wheelchair) 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 area and major regional centres. All Australian states and territories have similar taxi subsidy schemes and interstate vouchers can be issued for people intending to travel outside South Australia.

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/topics/driving-and-transport/disability/.

Help with using public transport

Person with a vision impairment - a metroCARD Special pass 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*, which contains information and links to applications forms for the various South Australian Government schemes.

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.

Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP)

- Through CHSP some transport support maybe 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** is required (**tel. 1800 200 422**).

The community transport schemes and the Red Cross Transport Service described below are

Care and Support

Transport

funded through CHSP when assisting older people.

Community Passenger Network (CPN)

provides transport information and, in some cases, coordination and brokerage service for transport-disadvantaged people. Specific eligibility criteria may apply..

- Barossa and Light Councils, tel. 8563 8411
- Hills Community Transport, tel. 8391 7234
- Eyre Peninsula, tel. 1300 306 551 (Red Cross)
- Kangaroo Island, tel. 8553 2809
- Marion, Mitcham and Holdfast Bay, tel. 8375 6769
- Mid Murray, tel. 1800 334 882 or 8100 4603 (Red Cross)
- Mid North (part), tel. 8842 1677
- Mid North (part) and Yorke Peninsula, tel. 1300 132 932 or 8853 3700 (Community Care and Transport)
- Murray Mallee, tel. 8572 3513
- Northern Metro, tel. 8256 0355
- Northern Country 8100 4600 (Red Cross)
- Onkaparinga, tel. 1300 365 729
- Riverland, tel. 1800 334 882 (Red Cross)
- South East Country, tel. 1300 851 898 or 8725 3622 (Red Cross)
- Southern Fleurieu Peninsula, tel. 8551 0760 (SCOTS)

Australian Red Cross Transport Service is provided to older people in the greater metropolitan area who do not have any other way to attend medical appointments. **Tel. 8100 4587**. Referral from **My Aged Care** is required. Some country areas are also covered under the .

Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)

provides eligible concession card holders and their medically required attendants with transport assistance when travelling for approved medical treatment. Contact DVA, **tel. 1800 550 455**; <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/providers/travel-clients-treatment>

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

People under 65 years of age who are eligible for the scheme may be able to access funding through the NDIS for transport assistance if they cannot use public transport without substantial

difficulty due to their disability. Funding does not cover transport assistance for carers to transport their family member with a disability for everyday commitments. For further information on registering with the NDIS visit www.ndis.gov.au or **tel. 1800 800 110**.

Catalyst Foundation is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. Visit the website www.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 October 2023