

# 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 of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI). 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](mailto:dpti.movingrightalong@sa.gov.au).

### 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. <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, from Transport SA. A once-only fee applies. Contact **Service SA, tel. 13 10 84** or visit [www.sa.gov.au/topics/driving-and-transport/drivers-and-licences/proof-of-age-card](http://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 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 (gopher) doesn't travel at a speed greater than 10 km/hr on level ground. 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.

DPTI publishes the information sheet '*Motorised mobility scooters*' containing information of relevant topics, e.g. insurance, road rules, being safe and your legal responsibility.

If you are considering purchasing an item, the Independent Living Centre (ILC) may also help. Call Tel. 8266 5260, 1300 885 886 or email [ilcsa@sa.gov.au](mailto:ilcsa@sa.gov.au). The ILC SA website provides a link to the product catalogue of Independent Living Centres Australia. <https://dhs.sa.gov.au/services/disability/independent-living-centre>

Regular trains, trams and most metropolitan buses are wheelchair-accessible. To check if the next bus is accessible, you can use real-time information on the Adelaide Metro website [www.adelaidemetro.com.au](http://www.adelaidemetro.com.au), third party phone apps or call the InfoLine 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

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

Pensioner Concession Card holders using Adelaide metropolitan public transport, provincial cities and country bus services are usually entitled to a 50% concession.

Seniors Card holders are entitled to free travel on weekdays 9.01am - 3pm, 7.01pm - 7am, all day on weekends and public holidays. At all other times a 50% concession applies.

Seniors Card holders travelling interstate will also receive concessions on public and government-subsidised transport. Check the relevant Seniors Card unit, details at <https://info.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/benefits-and-payments/older-australians/seniors-card>.

**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**.

### 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 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 **SA Health** on **1300 341 684** or email [PATS@sa.gov.au](mailto:PATS@sa.gov.au). It is possible to apply for the subsidy on line at [www.pats.sa.gov.au](http://www.pats.sa.gov.au).

**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/topics/driving-and-transport/disability/disability-parking-permit](http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/driving-and-transport/disability/disability-parking-permit).

**South Australian Transport Subsidy Scheme (SATSS)** - provides taxi vouchers for people (mostly aged 65 years and over) whose disability/frailty limits their ability to use public transport independently. People aged 16 - 64 years 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 areas. All Australian states and territories have similar taxi subsidy schemes and SATSS vouchers can be used.

Access taxis which can accommodate a wheelchair or scooter can be booked by phone on **1300 360 940**.

**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](http://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](http://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.

### 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.

**Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP)** Through CHSP 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** is required (**tel. 1800 200 422**).

The Community passenger networks and the Red Cross Transport Service below are funded through CHSP when assisting older people.

**Community passenger networks** provide transport information, coordination and brokerage service for transport-disadvantaged people.

- Barossa Region, tel. 8563 8411
- Eastern Metro, tel. 8100 4555
- Eyre Peninsula (including Whyalla and Ceduna), tel. 6557 1250
- Hills Community Transport, tel. 8391 7234
- Inner Southern Metro, tel. 8375 6649
- Mid Murray, tel. 8100 4603
- Mid North, tel. 8842 1677
- Murray Mallee, tel. 8572 3515
- 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 Fleurieu Peninsula, tel. 8551 0760
- Yorke Peninsula, tel. 8853 3700

**Australian Red Cross 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. 8100 4500**. For people over 65 years of age (50 for indigenous people) referral from **My Aged Care** is required (see above).

**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](http://www.ndis.gov.au) or **tel. 1800 800 110**.

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