



# Fitness to Drive Declaration

## FAQs

### What are medical assessments for drivers?

Some drivers are required to demonstrate their fitness to drive before they are granted or are able to renew their driver's licence. Currently, some drivers may be required to demonstrate they are fit to drive by undertaking a medical assessment with their chosen medical professional.

In WA, approximately 8 per cent of all drivers are required to undergo regular medical assessment. Drivers who are subject to this requirement include those with a reportable medical condition, occupational drivers (taxi and bus drivers, and drivers of public passenger carrying vehicles) and drivers aged 80 years and older.

### Why are medical assessments changing?

Over the last seven years, the Department of Transport (DoT) has seen the volume of medical assessments received for WA drivers grow by over 280 per cent. This has also been the case in other Australian licensing jurisdictions.. The increase in volumes is having an impact on medical practices and the general public.

DoT has developed strategies to reduce inconvenience to customers and medical practices, and improve processing timeframes. These strategies are starting to be rolled out from April 2016.

### What are the changes to medical assessments?

There are currently two key reforms to the Fitness to Drive Declaration process which propose to:

1. implement an online solution enabling doctors to submit medical assessments to DoT electronically; and
2. introduce a simplified process whereby certain drivers will be given the option to satisfy their ongoing fitness to drive by completing a declaration in lieu of undergoing a further medical assessment. This is called the Fitness to Drive Declaration process.

### When will the changes commence?

The Fitness to Drive Declaration process commences from 18 April 2016. The ability for doctors to submit a medical assessment to DoT electronically is scheduled to be implemented later in 2016.

## Who will be eligible to complete the Fitness to Drive Declaration?

The Fitness to Drive Declaration process is open to drivers with a valid driver licence who are required to demonstrate their fitness to drive.

It will not apply to:

- new drivers to WA;
- learner's permit applicants;
- drivers who report a new medical condition to DoT;
- occupational drivers (taxi/bus); or
- drivers aged 80 years and older.

Drivers who are not eligible to complete Fitness to Drive Declaration will need to continue to complete a Medical Assessment Certificate (M107A or M108A) with their chosen medical practitioner.

## What will be the process for the Fitness to Drive Declaration?

- Step 1: Eligible drivers will be sent a Fitness to Drive Declaration form approximately 12 weeks prior to the expiry of a drivers licence.
- Step 2: Once the Fitness to Drive Declaration form is completed, the form should be returned to DoT via mail in the reply paid envelope provided.
- Step 3: Responses to the Fitness to Drive Declaration questions will be assessed by DoT to determine whether a driver is exempt from having to undertake a medical assessment.
- Step 4: If it is determined that the driver is exempt, the drivers licence will be available to renew. Driver licence renewal notices will continue to be sent to drivers four to six weeks prior to the expiry of the licence.
- If it is determined that the driver is not exempt, a subsequent medical assessment will be required prior to the renewal of the drivers licence.

## How do the reforms impact on road safety?

DoT is committed to maintaining road safety for all road users, the proposed medical assessment changes do not diminish this ongoing responsibility and commitment.

The Fitness to Drive Declaration process is open only to eligible drivers whose medical condition is well maintained and under the regular care of a medical professional. Furthermore, the improved electronic exchange of information between medical professionals and DoT will provide for prompter responses to drivers of concern.

## Where can I get more information regarding medical assessment changes?

For information regarding medical assessments, contact Driver and Vehicle Services on 131156.