

Your duties as a driver licence holder

As a Queensland driver licence holder, you are required to promptly tell the Department of Transport and Main Roads of any long-term or permanent medical condition that is likely to adversely affect your ability to drive safely.

You must tell the department as soon as a condition develops or if there is a long-term increase to an existing condition. You cannot wait until you renew your licence.

When applying for a Queensland driver licence, you must tell the department of any medical condition that may adversely affect your ability to drive safely.

You may need a medical certificate confirming your fitness to drive. Your doctor may also recommend that your licence be subject to conditions.

If you fail to report your condition, you may receive a penalty of more than \$6000 and be disqualified from driving.

How will I know if I have a medical condition that may affect my driving?

You should talk to your doctor. Conditions include, but are not limited to:

- blackouts or fainting
- diabetes (early and late onset)
- epilepsy
- eye problems (for example, cataracts)
- hearing problems
- heart disease
- psychiatric disorders
- sleep disorders
- stroke
- alcohol or drug dependency.

For more information

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has made reporting a medical condition easier through the use of online forms, which are available at www.tmr.qld.gov.au/medicalconditions.

Alternatively, download the *Medical Certificate for Motor Vehicle Driver* form (F3712).

To lodge your medical condition form (F3712), you can:

- Visit**
- a departmental Customer Service Centre
 - an authorised Queensland Government Agency Program office
 - a licence-issuing police station.

Mail Medical Condition Reporting Unit
Department of Transport and Main Roads
Locked Bag 2000
Red Hill Rockhampton Qld 4701

Fax 07 4931 1624

Email mcr@tmr.qld.gov.au

For more information or to find forms visit www.tmr.qld.gov.au/medicalconditions or contact the department's call centre on **13 23 80*** Monday to Friday 8am–5pm, excluding public holidays.

The Assessing Fitness to Drive publication, used by your doctor to assess your fitness to drive, can be viewed at www.austroads.com.au/aftd

Information in this guide is current as at May 2013.

** Local call charge in Australia. Higher rates apply from mobile phones and payphones.*

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Driving, your health and the law

Driving a motor vehicle is an essential part of most people's lives. However, the privilege of driving also comes with certain responsibilities. Driving a motor vehicle is a complex task that requires perception, good judgement, adequate responsiveness and reasonable physical capability. For your safety and the safety of others, you must only drive when you are medically fit to do so.

A range of medical conditions (mental or physical) may adversely affect your ability to drive safely, and could result in a crash causing death or injury. Follow your doctor's advice and know your legal responsibilities before you drive on Queensland roads.

Jet's story

The story of Jet Rowland, pictured on the cover of this brochure, demonstrates why managing your medical condition is essential.

In 2004, a driver with epilepsy had a seizure and crashed into the car Jet was travelling in. Jet, 22 months old, was killed by the impact of the crash. Jet's seven-year-old brother Bailey now uses a wheelchair and his mother Anita was also severely injured.

Medical condition reporting legislation introduced after the tragic death of Jet Rowland has been named *Jet's Law* in his recognition.



How will my doctor assess my fitness to drive?

Your doctor will refer to the private and commercial medical standards for driving in the Assessing Fitness to Drive publication. These standards are recognised by all Australian driver licensing authorities.

Your doctor will provide advice on how your condition may affect your driving ability and how to manage it. However, the department makes the final decision on your ability to hold a driver licence.

What if I drive a vehicle to earn a living?

If you drive heavy vehicles, public passenger vehicles (for example buses or taxis) or vehicles carrying dangerous goods, you must meet the commercial medical standards in the Assessing Fitness to Drive publication. These standards are more stringent than private standards and reflect the increased risk associated with motor vehicle crashes involving such vehicles.

Despite having a medical condition, with treatment and regular review, you may be able to continue to drive such vehicles under a conditional licence.

What if my condition is only temporary?

Your doctor may advise that you restrict your driving activity temporarily if your condition is only short term (for example, after anaesthesia or a broken limb). In this case, your driver licence status will not be affected and you do not need to report the condition to the department.

Are there special rules for older drivers?

Yes. If you are a Queensland driver licence holder 75 years or older, you must carry a current medical certificate in the approved form while driving and drive in accordance with the certificate. This is mandatory regardless of whether or not you have a medical condition.

If my doctor gives me a medical certificate about my fitness to drive, what must I do?

You must promptly lodge your medical certificate with the department if your doctor completes a Medical Certificate for Motor Vehicle Driver form (F3712), stating in their opinion one of the following:

- that you meet the medical standards for a driver licence but with stated condition/s
- that your driver licence should be subject to conditions that differ to the condition/s already shown on your licence
- that you are medically unfit to drive.

See the back of this brochure for details on how to lodge your medical certificate.

Can I still drive with a medical condition?

In most cases, having a medical condition will not stop you from driving.

Your doctor must determine whether you are:

- fit to drive with no conditions
- fit to drive under stated conditions (for example, only during daylight or in a vehicle with automatic transmission)
- not fit to drive.

Do I need to carry my medical certificate when I drive?

Yes. You must carry your current medical certificate and drive in accordance with it at all times. You must also show it to a police officer if asked to do so. If your driver licence is subject to conditions, it will have an 'M' condition on it.

What happens if I fail to comply with the condition/s of my licence?

You must comply with any conditions imposed on your licence. If you fail, you may receive a penalty of more than \$2000.

What action may the department take if I'm medically unfit to drive?

Your licence may be amended, suspended for a period of time or cancelled. If your licence is cancelled, you must surrender it to the department.

If you do not agree with the department's decision, you may ask for it to be reconsidered or apply to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) for a review of the decision.

If you continue to drive while your licence is suspended or cancelled, you may receive a penalty of more than \$4000 or be imprisoned for up to one year.

If you fail to notify the department that you have a permanent, long-term medical condition that is likely to adversely affect your ability to drive safely you may receive a penalty of more than \$6000 and your driver licence may be cancelled.

What happens if I ignore my doctor's advice and I'm involved in a crash?

If your medical condition contributes to a crash, your licence could be cancelled. There may also be legal implications including imprisonment.

Can my doctor report me if I'm medically unfit to drive?

Yes. If your doctor has given you advice and is concerned that it may be ignored, or they feel that your condition poses a risk to public safety, they are encouraged to tell the department.

Your doctor is provided protection under legislation when giving information in good faith to the department about your fitness to drive.

What should I do if I'm concerned about a friend or relative's fitness to drive?

It is important that you advise them to talk to their doctor. With appropriate treatment or restrictions, the person may be able to continue to drive.

If they are unwilling to talk to their doctor, you can provide this advice in writing to the department. Supporting evidence, such as advice from a police officer or health professional, should be included where possible to substantiate your claims. Include your name and address, together with the name and address of the person you believe is medically unfit to drive.

The department may suspend or cancel the person's Queensland driver licence, or withdraw their authority to drive in Queensland if they are a non-Queensland licence holder.