

MEDIA STATEMENT

27 November 2023

Transport and Main Roads statement on fitness to drive in Queensland

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) wants to reassure all Queenslanders there is no specific legislation that states that autistic people cannot drive.

While it is a legal requirement that all drivers in Queensland be medically fit to drive, TMR can clarify to autistic Queenslanders that there have been no recent changes impacting on your driving eligibility.

If any Queenslanders is uncertain about a medical condition and the impact it may have on their ability to drive safely, TMR recommends that they consult their health professional.

More information can be found at www.qld.gov.au/transport/licensing/update/medical/fitness

Joanna Robinson, TMR General Manager, Safety and Regulation:

“Everyone driving in Queensland has a legal obligation to notify TMR about a permanent or long-term medical condition, or a change or increase in an existing medical condition that is likely to impact their ability to drive safely.

“While autism may impact the ability of a person to drive safely, only long term or permanent medical conditions which are likely to adversely affect a person’s ability to drive safely must be reported to TMR and require a medical certificate to confirm they are fit to drive.

“If a person is unsure about whether their medical condition is likely to adversely affect their ability to drive safely, they are encouraged to seek medical advice about their specific condition.

“Relevant medical conditions are listed in the national Assessing Fitness to Drive (AFTD) publication. It is the treating doctor's responsibility to assess medical fitness in accordance with the medical standards, principles and guidelines provided in the AFTD.”

Pam Macrossan, CEO, Autism Queensland:

“Autism Queensland welcomes TMR’s clarification that there is no specific legislation stating autistic people cannot drive or automatic requirement for a medical assessment to confirm they are fit to drive.

“All Queenslanders have a duty of care to seek the opinion of a medical professional if we are concerned that any aspect of our health or functioning may affect our ability to drive safely. This is not specific to or different for autistic people.

“We appreciate the commitment by TMR to ensure that Queensland roads remain safe to all.”

ENDS

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