



TEGAN ROSS
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Potential to Drive Assessment

Client Information Handout

A Potential to Drive Assessment is completed when a person would like to explore whether they may be able to learn to drive, return to driving, or progress toward obtaining a learner licence. This assessment is commonly used when medical, developmental, cognitive, physical or disability-related factors may impact driving readiness.

Who may need this assessment?

- A person wanting to apply for their learner licence or explore whether driving is realistic
- A person who has never driven before and has a disability, developmental delay or medical condition
- A person with cerebral palsy, autism, intellectual disability, brain injury, stroke or neurological condition
- A person who may require specialist driving lessons, vehicle modifications, or NDIS planning information

Purpose of the assessment

The assessment helps determine whether the person has the underlying skills required to begin or continue learning to drive safely. It supports practical decision making for the client, family, doctor, support coordinator or NDIS team.

Skills considered

- Attention, concentration, memory, learning capacity, planning and problem-solving
- Reaction time, visual scanning, road safety awareness and ability to follow instructions
- Physical ability to operate vehicle controls, coordination and motor planning
- Insight into risk and safety, readiness for lessons, and possible need for modifications

What does the assessment involve?

The assessment is usually completed off-road and includes discussion of medical history, goals and transport needs, licence status, vision screening, physical assessment, cognitive screening, road safety discussion and recommendations about next steps.

In some cases, an on-road component may be recommended if the person is medically cleared and holds the required licence or learner permit.

Possible outcomes

- Suitable to begin or continue learner driving with a driving instructor
- Recommendation for specialist lessons, vehicle modifications or further assessment
- Recommendation to delay driving and focus on skill development
- Not recommended to pursue driving at this time

After the assessment

A written summary or report can be provided to the referring doctor, participant, family, support coordinator or NDIS representative where required.

A Potential to Drive Assessment does not automatically approve a person to drive. Medical clearance, licence eligibility and Transport for NSW requirements may still apply.