



TEGAN ROSS  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

# Vehicle Modifications Assessment

Client Information Handout

A Vehicle Modifications Assessment is completed when a person has difficulty safely operating a standard vehicle due to a medical condition, disability, injury or change in physical function. The assessment helps determine whether modifications may support safe, independent and functional driving.

## Who may need this assessment?

- A person who has difficulty steering safely or consistently
- A person who has difficulty using indicators, lights, wipers or standard vehicle controls
- A person with reduced leg strength, sensation, coordination, amputation, pain or fatigue affecting pedal use
- A person who has difficulty transferring in and out of the vehicle or loading mobility equipment

## Examples of vehicle modifications

- Spinner knob or steering aid, including spinner knob with integrated indicators
- Hand controls for accelerator and brake, left foot accelerator or pedal modifications
- Indicator extensions, transfer aids, seat modifications or wheelchair hoists
- Wheelchair-accessible vehicle modifications

## What does the assessment involve?

The assessment may include review of medical and driving history, licence status, medical clearance, current driving needs, physical assessment, transfer assessment and review of ability to operate standard vehicle controls.

The Occupational Therapist may liaise with a qualified vehicle modifier, driving instructor, doctor, Transport for NSW or funding body where required.

## Possible outcomes

- No vehicle modification required
- Trial of a specific vehicle modification or driving lessons using modified controls
- Installation of a recommended vehicle modification
- Further assessment with a vehicle modifier or requirement for on-road assessment
- Recommendation for licence conditions to be updated, or that driving is not safe at this time

## Important information

Vehicle modifications must be suitable for the driver, the vehicle and the person's medical and functional needs. Some modifications may require Transport for NSW approval, medical clearance, engineering certification, installation by a qualified modifier and updated licence conditions.

## After the assessment

A written report can be provided to the referring doctor, Transport for NSW, participant, family, support coordinator, NDIS representative or funding body where required.

**The Occupational Therapist provides clinical recommendations; final licensing decisions are made by Transport for NSW.**