



Patient information

Driver Assessment & Rehabilitation Service

An Occupational Therapy program
assisting individuals to resume or
commence driving



**Donvale
Rehabilitation Hospital**
Part of Ramsay Health Care

Driver Assessment & Rehabilitation Service

The aim of the Driving Assessment & Rehabilitation Service is to assist individuals to resume or commence driving in a safe manner to maximise independence in the community.

At Donvale Rehabilitation Hospital the service is provided by a qualified Occupational Therapy Driving Assessor who works closely with qualified driving instructors. These instructors have experience working with clients with a variety of medical conditions and disabilities and are able to provide expert tuition in the use of vehicle modifications.

Why is a Driving Assessment necessary?

Illness or injury can impact the skills required to safely drive a car.

An Occupational Therapy Driving assessment may be necessary if:

- You have a medical condition(s) or injury and would like to know if you are able to retain your licence
- Your physical skills or thinking ability have changed since you first obtained your licence
- You have a longstanding disability and have never driven and would like to obtain your licence

Some examples of illness or injury when a Driving Assessment may be required include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Stroke | • Amputees |
| • Motor Neurone disease | • Arthritis |
| • Traumatic Head Injury | • Psychiatric Illness |
| • Multiple Medical problems | • Visual Problems |
| • Congenital Abnormalities | • Brain Lesions |
| • Multiple Sclerosis | • Dementia |
| • Parkinson's Disease | • Chronic Pain |

What does the program involve?

MEDICAL ASSESSMENT

VicRoads Medical Report completed by your doctor or specialist.

VicRoads Eyesight Report completed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.



OFF ROAD ASSESSMENT

with Occupational Therapist including:

- Driving & medical history
- Physical, cognitive, & visual screening
- Comprehension of road law



ON ROAD ASSESSMENT

conducted in dual control vehicle with driving instructor and Occupational Therapist to observe:

- Physical limitations
- Judgement & ability to adjust to traffic situations
- Reacting appropriately to traffic
- Abiding with road laws



DRIVER REHABILITATION PROGRAM

(if required)



RETURN TO DRIVING / CEASE DRIVING

and explore alternative transport options

An Occupational Therapy Driving Assessment is usually initiated after a medical review or period of hospitalisation. You, your family, GP, Specialist or another health care professional can initiate a referral.

Prior to assessment a doctor must complete a VicRoads Medical Report and additional information such as an Eyesight Report from an ophthalmologist or optometrist may also be required.

Once VicRoads receive the relevant medical reports an assessment with an Occupational Therapist can be arranged. The assessment is completed in 2 parts: an off road assessment and an on-road test.

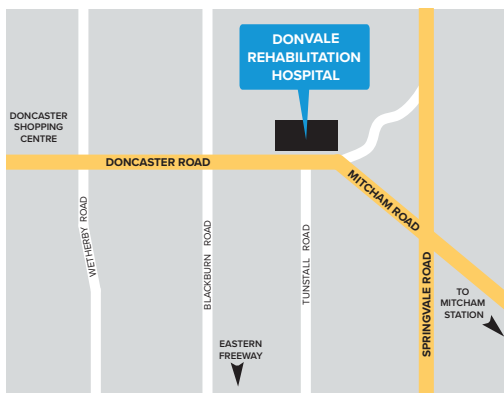
Recommendations are then sent to VicRoads who will make the final decision regarding your licence status.

After assessment you may be able to return to driving unconditionally or with conditions that need to be endorsed on your licence (e.g. driving in a restricted area, limiting driving to a specific time of day, using vehicle modifications such as additional mirrors, spinner knobs and hand controls, or wearing glasses).

In some cases it may be necessary to undertake further lessons with a qualified driving instructor as part of a driver rehabilitation program or alternative transport options may need to be explored with you.

Contact Us

For further information and to arrange an assessment please contact the Occupational Therapy Department on **03 9841 1260**.



Donvale Rehabilitation Hospital

Part of Ramsay Health Care

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