



LEARNING TO DRIVE FOR YOUNG PERSONS WITH A MEDICAL OR MUSCULO-SKELETAL CONDITION

The following describes the process for getting your Learners Permit (L's) if you have a medical condition (e.g. epilepsy, visual impairment, neuromuscular disorder) or a musculo-skeletal condition (e.g. achondroplasia, limb absence).

PRIOR TO BOOKING OR ATTENDING THE ONLINE TEST FOR YOUR LEARNERS PERMIT:

- Family or young person prints off the Vic Roads medical report form, available on the VicRoads website: <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/licences/health-and-driving/medical-forms-and-fact-sheets>.
- Family or young person makes an appointment with their GP (may need a long appointment) and completes the medical form together with the GP (leaving the 'Learner Permit No.' section blank). For the following *'You must complete sections'*:
 1. ***'On road driving test required to determine fitness to drive'***, if modifications to the vehicle are required the GP indicates 'Yes' and specifies why vehicle modifications are needed e.g. short limb length; absent upper or lower limb/s; decreased ability to move limbs.
 2. ***'How long have you known/treated this patient?'***, under **'Comments'** the GP specifies:
 - what the diagnosis or condition is
 - how this impacts the young person's ability to drive, e.g.
 - inability to safely reach pedals and/or steering wheel and/or gear stick and or safely view road either through windscreen or mirrors (rear-view or side) OR
 - decreased ability to move right shoulder, forearm and wrist within full range, OR
 - unable to safely handle/control steering wheel or change gears.
- The completed medical report form is sent to medicalreview@roads.vic.gov.au (may be sent by family or doctor) with a covering statement (written by family or doctor) specifying that the young person is seeking to apply for their learners permit and the attached medical report is being submitted for a pending learner permit application



(Learner permit application form' found at:

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/licences/your-ls/get-your-ls/how-to-get-your-ls>).

- Vic Roads review the medical report form (takes approximately 10-15 working days) and sends a letter to the young person. The letter describes any additional actions required prior to the young person being able to receive their learners' permit (e.g. person to contact an Occupational Therapy (OT) Driving Assessor for a driving assessment. If this is requested Vic Roads will also send a list of Occupational Therapy Driving Assessors for young person to contact).
- If an OT Driving Assessment is required, the OT Driving Assessor is required to email Vic Roads following being contacted by the young person to seek clearance from Vic Roads to assess the young person. Once clearance is received the OT Driving assessment can be arranged.
- The OT Driving Assessment occurs in two parts.
 1. An information gathering or off road assessment of the person's condition and driving needs to identify any modifications required and
 2. A practical assessment of the young person again off road, with instruction in the use of the required modifications.
- The OT Driving Assessor then sends their report to Vic Roads and identifies for the young person what, if any, vehicle modifications are required e.g. spinner knob on the steering wheel, modified pedals. The OT Driving Assessor will also advise the family or young person of:
 1. Businesses for modifying the vehicle and
 2. Driving instructors with appropriately modified vehicles for teaching the young person to drive
- Vic Roads must approve the conditions under which the young person may drive and sends this in writing to the young person.
- While awaiting the above approval the family or young person can:
 1. Book to complete the computer based learning assessment.
<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/licences/your-ls/get-your-ls/how-to-get-your-ls>
 2. Have the modifications made to their vehicle.



- Once approval from Vic Roads is received, the young person takes that approval to the Vic Roads centre when completing their online learner's permit test and if they successfully pass the online test they will be provided with their learners permit with any included conditions.
- The young person then commences driving lessons with an instructor in the instructor's vehicle with the required modifications (and dual controls).
- When identified as safe to commence driving under the supervision of family members in their own modified vehicle, the young person may commence to do so.
- When ready to sit their probationary license test, the young person does so with their driving instructor in the driving instructors modified vehicle and is assessed by the OT Driving Assessor in lieu of a Vic Roads Driving Assessor.

Useful websites:

1. Vic ROADS

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/licences/health-and-driving/driving-with-a-disability>

2. NDIS VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS:

(Link being updated)

3. DISABLED MOTORISTS AUSTRALIA:

www.disabledmotorists.org.au

4. INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTRE (ILC) Vehicle modification suppliers:

<https://ilcaustralia.org.au/products/18428>