

Driving Fitness Assessment Clinic

Options for practical on-road driving assessment

Following your medical assessment in the DFA Clinic, the doctor may recommend further assessment.

Outlined below are the available options for practical driving assessment.

Department of Transport on-road driving test

This is a test of driving safety and application of road law. This is not an assessment of the medical condition and how it may affect driving, nor is it an assessment of rehabilitation needs for driving.

The outcome of this test will affect driver's licence status (e.g. pass or fail outcome).

Occupational Therapy on road driving assessment

This is an assessment of the person and how the medical condition is affecting the person in the task of driving.

It includes a pre-drive assessment by the Occupational Therapist including:

- > Vision
- > Physical abilities
- > How the brain is processing information.

The on-road component of the assessment is completed in a driving instructor's dual-control car. Both an Occupational Therapist and a Driving Instructor will be present throughout the on road assessment. The outcome of this assessment is communicated to you and the doctor to guide if any further intervention is recommended.

Follow up appointment with the DFA doctor will be arranged to discuss the outcome in more detail.

Please note there is a \$100 fee for the driving instructor in the public clinic.

Referrals for private assessment are also an option and can be discussed with the DFA doctor.

For more information

4th Generation Clinics

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Medical Fitness for Driving

There are many medical conditions that can affect your driving. Some of these are short-term and improve with time, whilst others may have a lasting impact on driving function.

Driving is a very complex task that involves:

- > Arms for steering and operation of the indicator, gear stick, hand brake etc.
- > Legs for foot pedal controls
- > Eyes to see and respond to the road and traffic conditions
- > Brain to remember road rules, interpret and anticipate traffic conditions.

If a medical condition affects one or more of these essential components of driving, you may require specialist assessment of the impact of your medical condition on driving ability.

What to Expect at the Driving Fitness Assessment Clinic

The Driving Fitness Assessment clinic (DFA) is a service for people who need to be medically assessed for physical, visual, cognitive and psychological fitness to continue/return to driving.

Assessments are based on the national Austroad Licencing Guidelines.

A Certificate of Medical Fitness to drive can be issued as appropriate.

During your visit to the DFA clinic, you will see both a nurse and a doctor.

You will not be sitting a practical driving assessment at your first initial assessment.

The clinic may refer you for practical driving assessments as necessary, and this will occur at a later date.

Specialist assessment will provide recommendations about driving fitness, potential license conditions (e.g. vehicle modifications), and /or need for driver retraining.

Outcomes Following Clinic Assessment

Your doctor will review the status of your medical condition and how this has affected your function.

Following nursing and medical assessment, your doctor may recommend one or more of the following:

- > Return to driving without need for further assessment
- > Undergo further assessments (e.g. vision)
- > Undergo a practical on-road driving test through Department of Transport or by a specialist Occupational Therapy driving assessor
- > Cessation of driving as medically unsuitable at this time.