

DRIVING AND DEMENTIA FACTSHEET



DEMENTIA AND DRIVING PATHWAY

You are required by law to tell the RMS of any medical condition that might affect your ability to drive safely. Dementia is one of the medical conditions that need to be disclosed because it affects driving ability.

Dementia can affect driving ability in a number of ways including:

- Being able to find your way around
- Remembering which way to turn or where you parked your car
- Judging the distance from other cars and objects
- Judging the speed of other cars
- Slowed reaction time
- Hand-eye coordination

The RMS will ask you to see your doctor for a medical fitness to drive assessment. You will need to provide the RMS with the results of this assessment. The RMS will then use this information to decide if you can continue to drive.

Having a diagnosis of dementia does not always mean that you need to stop driving straight away. In NSW, a conditional licence may be issued to people with dementia if the RMS is satisfied with the medical assessment of fitness to drive. Some drivers may be required to complete an on-road and/or off-road driving assessment before being issued with a conditional licence. If you continue to drive, your conditional licence will be valid for 12 months, after which time you will need to be reassessed.

Making the decision to stop driving does not mean that you will no longer be able to get to places you need to or want to go. Alternatives to driving include:

- Using trains, taxis or buses
- Walking
- Asking a family member or friend to give you a lift
- Using community transport if it is available in your area (check with local council)
- Make use of home delivery services where possible (e.g. food and medical prescriptions)

OTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

- Alzheimer's Australia Help sheet 4: Information for people with dementia – Driving
https://www.fightdementia.org.au/sites/default/files/helpsheets/Helpsheet-InformationForPeopleWithDementia04-DrivingAndDementia_english.pdf
- Alzheimer's Australia Help sheet 7: Caring for someone with dementia – Driving
https://www.fightdementia.org.au/sites/default/files/helpsheets/Helpsheet-CaringForSomeone07-Driving_english.pdf
- Changed conditions ahead: Dementia and Driving Guide for Families and Carers
<https://vic.fightdementia.org.au/files/MIC/documents/Dementia-and-Driving-guide-for-family-carers.pdf>
- Staying on the Move with Dementia
<https://nsw.fightdementia.org.au/sites/default/files/NSW-Staying-on-th-move-with-dementia-booklet.pdf>
- On the road 65plus
<http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/downloads/65plus.pdf>
- Dementia and Driving: A decision Aid
<http://smah.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@smah/@nmih/documents/doc/uow179550.pdf>

REPORT DIAGNOSIS TO RMS

**DRIVER WITH
DEMENTIA CHOOSES
TO STOP DRIVING**

**Licence handed in
and replaced by a Photo
ID card from the RMS**

**Access other means
of transport such as:**

- **Trains, taxis or buses**
- **Walking**
- **Lifts from family members or friends**
- **Community transport (check with local council)**
- **Make use of home delivery services where possible**

**DRIVER WITH
DEMENTIA WANTS TO
CONTINUE DRIVING**

**Medical
assessment of
fitness to drive**

**RMS makes a
decision based on
medical report. This
may include an on-
or off-road driving
assessment**

**Unfit to
drive**

**Licence
revoked by
the RMS.
Driver may
dispute
decision**

**Appeal
made to the
RMS.
Driver is
unable to
drive until a
decision is
made**

**Fit to
drive**

**Conditional
licence
issued by
the RMS**

**Licence
reviewed at
least every
12 months**

For more information, please call:

**NATIONAL DEMENTIA HELPLINE
1800 100 500**

This is an initiative of the Australian Government

Alzheimer's Australia NSW | ABN 27 109 607 472

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FIGHTDEMENTIA.ORG.AU