

Making the Transition from Driving

Information Sheet

As you get older it is likely that you will think about and carefully plan your financial security, housing, health care and retirement from the workforce. It is just as important to consider how your transport needs are likely to change in the future. You should think about your future transport needs before you need to reduce or stop driving. Careful and early planning will make the transition from driving less stressful and ensure you maintain an active and fulfilling lifestyle.

Making the choice to stop driving can be a difficult and emotional decision. The decision to reduce how much you drive or cease driving is much easier if you make it yourself, rather than being forced to give it up.

It can be helpful to talk through this decision with family and friends who care about you, and your safety. You should treat any feedback about your driving as constructive, especially if it comes from people who care about your safety. Your doctor can also help as they have knowledge of your health.

You might also find a number of additional benefits when reducing or stopping driving, such as financial savings. Keeping a vehicle when it is not used regularly can be expensive due to costs such as registration, insurance and maintenance. This money might be better spent on alternative transportation options for infrequent travel (e.g. taxi fares, public transport).

If you decide to surrender your driver licence voluntarily you may be eligible to receive an Adult Proof of Age card free of charge to give you an alternative form of photo identity. For more information enquire at a Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centre or Queensland Government licence issuing centre, or call 13 23 80*.

Alternatives

Even with planning, the decision to stop driving is hard and you might be worried about how you will get around. Here are some ways to prepare:

- **Ask your family and friends for help.** If asking for help is hard for you, you could offer to pay for petrol when they take you where you need to go.
- **Practice using public transport.** If you're thinking of taking the bus or train, try doing it a few times before you stop driving. This will give you an idea of when you can use the bus or train and when you might need other help getting around.
- **Think about using taxis.** It may sound expensive. But don't forget that it also costs a lot to own a car, buy petrol, and pay for insurance and maintenance.

Public transport

Public transport can be a very convenient and affordable way to get around, reducing your travel costs and helping you to avoid driving in busy or unfamiliar situations. Most public transport services across Queensland are coordinated and delivered by TransLink. They provide the following services:

- regular fared bus, train and ferry services
- free bus loop services around the Brisbane CBD and Spring Hill
- FlexiLink – wheelchair accessible maxi cabs

A number of additional bus and ferry service providers also exist in local areas across Queensland.

A range of concessions are available to seniors when using public transport in Queensland, irrespective of the specific provider.

A 50% concession is available for individuals who hold a valid:

- Seniors Card (issued in any state or territory)
- Queensland Pensioner Concession Card
- Queensland Gold Repatriation Health Card (Gold Card).

Free travel is also available for individuals who hold a valid:

- Vision Impairment Travel Pass
- Companion Card for attendant carers (issued in any state or territory)
- Queensland Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veteran Travel Pass.

Taxi subsidy scheme

The Queensland taxi subsidy scheme aims to improve the mobility of persons with severe disabilities. Under this scheme, people with a severe disability will have half of their total taxi fare subsidised, up to a maximum of \$25 per trip. The scheme is funded and administered by the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Taxi subsidy scheme membership lasts for a maximum of 5 years. To extend your membership, you must reapply before the expiry date. If you have a temporary disability, membership could be from 6 to 12 months.

Contact us

For more information please visit www.qld.gov.au/seniors/transport or call 13 23 80*.

** Higher rates apply from mobile phones and pay phones.*