

Vision loss and your driver's licence

Good vision is essential for safe driving. Any significant loss of vision reduces your ability to drive safely.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) can lead to vision loss and may affect your ability to see and react to potential hazards, increasing the risk of accidents.

Losing a driver's licence due to vision loss can be traumatic. It can also lead to feelings of loss of independence, and loneliness resulting from physical and social isolation.

Macular Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA) can help you to manage these feelings, and access support and alternate modes of transport to continue living well.



Preparing for changes

It's important to prepare for a time when you may be unable to drive or require extra support to drive safely. Here are some steps you can take:

- Research and familiarise yourself with public transport options in your area.
- Look for local services that are closer to home.
- Make use of transport services offered by local community organisations and councils to get to shopping centres and other important destinations.
- Consider daytime driving only, when nighttime driving is too risky.

There may be technological aids available to assist you to continue driving. Call our friendly team to find out more.

State and Territory Driving Standards

Different states and territories in Australia have varying requirements for vision standards to maintain a driver licence.

MDFA can help you understand these requirements for your specific location.

State and Territory Requirements

Obtaining a Driver's Licence

- **Eye Test Required:** NSW, WA, Tasmania, NT, ACT
- **No Eye Test Required:** Victoria, Queensland, SA

MAINTAINING A DRIVER'S LICENCE

NSW	ACT	Qld	WA	Vic, SA, Tas, NT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye test every 10 years (under 45 years) • Eye test every 5 years (45+ years) • Eye test every year (75+ years) • Full medical assessment is required for drivers 75+ years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye test at ages 50, 60, 65, 70 years • Yearly medical assessments from 75+ years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical certificate required for drivers 75+ years, valid for 13 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual medical assessments for drivers 80+ years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No periodic eye test requirement; drivers must self-declare health conditions

Conditional Licences

People who need corrective lenses or have slightly below-standard vision may be granted a conditional licence, based on recommendations from an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

Alternate transport options

If you are unable to drive, you may wish to consider these alternatives:

- **Taxi Subsidy Schemes**
- **Community Transport Providers**
- **Public Transport Information**
- **Non-Emergency Patient Transport**

MDFA can provide more information about these options and put you in contact with the relevant alternate transport providers.

We can also refer you to My Aged Care or the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) based on individual circumstances.

Who can help?

Your GP or healthcare professional can help you better understand your individual circumstances regarding whether your vision is affecting your ability to drive, and what to do next.

MDFA and other low vision organisations can offer support to help you navigate the changes in your driving abilities.

Reach out to our national Helpline on **1800 111 709** for help understanding driving standards and finding transport alternatives.

Macular Disease Foundation Australia Mezzanine, 383-395 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
National Helpline: 1800 111 709 | Email: eyeconnect@mdfoundation.com.au | www.mdfoundation.com.au

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