



Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: PET 44439
Your ref: A839104

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14 April 2022

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3667-21, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 15 March 2022 about age discrimination in Queensland relating to annual medicals for residents 75 years and over to retain a driver's licence.

Age in itself is not a barrier to driving and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) supports older drivers continuing to drive on Queensland's roads for as long as they can do so safely. TMR takes road safety seriously and has an obligation to ensure that any person, regardless of age, who holds a Queensland driver licence is medically fit to drive the class and type of motor vehicle their driver licence authorises them to drive.

The Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety – Queensland has analysed the age groups of drivers involved in fatal traffic incidents. Assessment of which road users are most at fault in traffic crashes by age revealed a u-shaped curve, with young drivers typically having a high level of fault which declines in the mature years, before increasing again from age 60. The most significant increase occurs among those aged 75 years and older who are considered most at fault in 80 per cent of crashes in which they are involved.

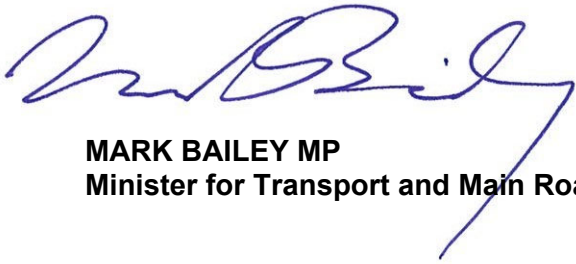
As there are a number of medical conditions which may become more prevalent with age, all drivers aged 75 years or older must also carry a current medical certificate when they drive. TMR relies upon doctors' expert medical opinions to assist in making a determination about a person's medical fitness to hold a driver licence. Medical certificates for drivers aged 75 years or older are valid for a maximum period of 13 months, which ensures that medical fitness to drive is assessed annually. The assessment assists with the early detection and management of medical conditions that may adversely affect an older driver's ability to drive safely.

It should be noted that Queensland licence holders who have a long-term or permanent medical condition that may affect the ability to drive safely must also hold, and drive in accordance with, a current medical certificate. TMR considers a person's treating doctor to be the best person to determine whether a person is medically fit to drive. Doctors are instructed to conduct their medical assessment in accordance with the medical standards, principles and guidelines provided in the Austroads Assessing Fitness to Drive (AFTD) publication. Use of the AFTD ensures that medical fitness to drive is assessed consistently across all Australian driver licensing jurisdictions.

For these reasons, there are no current plans to change the current medical condition reporting requirements for drivers aged 75 years and older in Queensland. However, TMR continues to be involved in ongoing discussions and research into this issue both in Australia and overseas.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bailey', with a long, sweeping underline that extends downwards and to the right.

MARK BAILEY MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads