



## Minister for Transport and Main Roads Minister for Digital Services

Our ref: PET 52696  
Your ref: A1248464

2 April 2024

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3997-23, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 5 March 2024, about driver's licence requirements for people with autism.

Media coverage around autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and fitness to drive in late 2023 contained inaccurate information about the requirement for community members with an ASD diagnosis to report their condition to the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). TMR understands that, regrettably, this media coverage caused confusion and raised some concerns.

In response to this media coverage, TMR released a joint statement with Autism Queensland to clarify this position and reassure individuals who have been diagnosed with ASD of the requirements in Queensland. The statement can be found online at <https://autismqld.com.au/transport-and-main-roads-statement-on-fitness-to-drive-in-queensland>.

In Queensland, it is a legal requirement that all drivers be medically fit to drive. It is the responsibility of anyone intending to drive in Queensland to notify TMR about a long-term or permanent medical condition, or a change or increase in an existing medical condition, which is likely to adversely affect their ability to drive safely. This is a long-standing requirement and is reflected on TMR's website.

Relevant medical conditions that may affect an individual's ability to drive safely are listed in the national *Assessing fitness to drive for commercial and private vehicle drivers* guidelines (the AFTD) developed by Austroads in collaboration with the National Transport Commission. The publication is designed to guide and support assessments made by health professionals to ensure that these assessments are conducted in a consistent manner across Australia. In Queensland, a person's treating doctor plays a central role in determining medical fitness to drive, including whether any licence restrictions or conditions need to apply. It is the treating doctor's responsibility to assess medical fitness to drive in accordance with the medical standards provided in the AFTD.

Drivers with ASD are not necessarily required to inform TMR of their diagnosis, but anyone with any long-term medical condition (which may include ASD) that is likely to adversely affect their ability to drive safely is required to self-report to TMR.

TMR's website also provides some general information on medical fitness to drive and the legal obligations of drivers. However, advice in relation to specific medical conditions is not included, as the range and severity of symptoms associated with particular medical conditions can vary from individual to individual. Information on medical condition reporting can be accessed via TMR's website at <https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/licensing/update/medical>.

As TMR staff are not medically trained to provide medical advice about a person's fitness to drive, TMR relies on the advice provided by health professionals. TMR advises Queenslanders who are uncertain about whether their medical condition is likely to adversely affect their ability to drive safely to seek medical advice.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'B' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

**BART MELLISH MP**  
**Minister for Transport and Main Roads**  
**Minister for Digital Services**