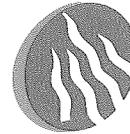




Hon John Mickel MP
Member for Logan



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC38397

**Minister for Transport, Trade,
Employment and Industrial Relations**

- 1 OCT 2008

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE	
No. 5208TW152	
- 6 OCT 2008	
MP: Hon J Mickel	
Clerk's Signature	

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a petition lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mrs Desley Scott MP, Member for Woodridge on 27 August 2008 regarding Jet's Law and reporting medical conditions that affect a person's ability to drive safely.

The Queensland Government is committed to improving safety on Queensland roads. On 1 March 2006 legislative changes were made to require licence holders to notify Queensland Transport at anytime while holding a Queensland licence if a long term or permanent medical condition exists, or if there is a change in an existing medical condition, that affects a person's ability to drive. These changes are referred to in Queensland legislation as '*Jet's Law*'.

Prior to 1 March 2006 persons were only required to report a medical condition that may affect their driving at the time of licence application or renewal. Licence holders who fail to notify Queensland Transport of a medical condition may incur a fine of up to \$4 500. In addition, a period of disqualification may also be imposed against the person's licence pursuant to section 45B of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Driver Licensing) Regulation 1999* (the Regulation).

Under Part 3B of the Regulation, it is a requirement that all drivers be medically fit to drive. All drivers must meet nationally agreed standards to ensure that their health or any physical disability does not increase the risk of a crash in which they or other road users may be killed or injured. All Queensland licence holders who have a medical condition that may affect their ability to drive safely, and any Queensland licence holder who is 75 years of age or older must hold and drive in accordance with a current medical certificate.

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The department notes the petitions for legislative requirements for Queensland doctors to report patients suffering from a medical condition that were received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly. The case for mandatory reporting requirements for health professionals has been reviewed, however, it was decided that a more appropriate approach was for the department to work more closely with health professionals through a process of consultation and focus groups to identify 'best practices' in medical condition reporting.

During the next 12 months the department intends to initiate a more targeted strategy to better educate health professionals and their patients. It is intended that part of the strategy will involve educational posters for clinics and brochures for patients on medical conditions and driving. There are also community service announcements planned and consideration for a specific web site for health professionals to access all relevant forms and information about medical condition reporting.

To further strengthen the medical condition reporting process, Queensland Transport will shortly introduce a new initiative that essentially involves a receipt notification process.

This receipt will notify health professionals when a driver has lodged a medical certificate form (F3712) with the department stating either:

- medical standards for a conditional driver licence are met, and the condition/s differ to those shown currently on the driver licence; or
- medical standards are not met for a driver licence.

This will assist health professionals in monitoring whether their patients have reported a medical condition to Queensland Transport. Health professionals are able to independently report a patient's medical condition directly to Queensland Transport at any time should they choose to do so.

If you require any further information, please call Mr Michael Skinner, Land Transport and Safety on (07) 3253 4142.

Yours sincerely



JOHN MICKEL MP
Minister for Transport, Trade,
Employment and Industrial Relations