

# INFOSHEET



This information sheet is for information purposes only.

For further information regarding this topic, please contact your Occupational Therapy care team.

## Learn to drive information for people with short stature requiring car modifications

This information is for learner drivers of short stature who may need modifications to a standard car prior to obtaining a car licence.

The following process is required by the NSW Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) and is correct at the time of writing.

Please be aware requirements may change.

### Step-by-step process

#### 1. Funding

Prior to starting the learn-to-drive process, it is helpful to have an NDIS package that includes funding to cover the Occupational Therapy Driver assessment, modifications to the vehicle and the 10 hours of driver instruction in a modified vehicle.

#### 2. Obtain a clinical report

Ask your GP or other medical doctor to provide a report outlining the physical condition requiring further assessment and car modifications.

#### 3. Finding an Occupational Therapist

Book an appointment prior to sitting the learner driver test.

OT driver instructors are available through the Occupational Therapy Association NSW website.

It is important to find an OT who has experience and equipment to assist with car modifications for people with physical disabilities and short stature.

Preferably, the OT needs to be familiar with the area the student lives to nominate driving instructors with experience and suitable car modifications.

#### 4. Sit Learner Driver test at RMS centre

A list of centres can be found on the Service NSW website.

#### Important information

##### RMS guidelines

- <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/licence/health/driving-with-disability>

##### Service NSW

- <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/service-centre>

##### Occupational Therapy Association NSW website

- <https://www.otaus.com.au/find-an-ot>

#### 5. Organise an Occupational Therapy Driver Assessment

This involves an assessment with a qualified driver trainer Occupational Therapist who will work with a skilled instructor familiar with car modifications.

This is done initially with a driver instructor in their dual control car.



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They will also organise:

- Off-road assessment of cognitive and physical function
- On-road assessment of the car modifications required.

## 6. Car modifications

Car modifications need to be done through a vehicle modification centre once the appropriate modifications have been established.

If modifying a family car, all modifications are required to be removable so other family members can still drive the car.

# Learning to drive with the modifications

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The learner driver is required to have 10 hours of instruction with an experienced driving instructor with the appropriate modifications fitted to their car.

If family members are continuing/participating in your driving training, it's recommended to join in lessons with the instructor to ensure familiarity with the modifications.

## Types of modifications

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- Pedal extensions
- A false floor fitted to the floor to rest feet
- Brakes fitted to steering wheel
- Seat modifications such as a booster seat
- At times air bags may need to be disabled