

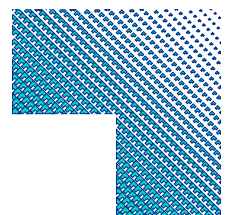


Assessing Fitness to Drive Review

Consultation Overview

National Transport Commission

4 June 2026



Document Outline

Title	Assessing Fitness to Drive Review Consultation Overview
Type of report	Consultation overview
Purpose	To support initial public consultation on the review of the Assessing Fitness to Drive Standards.
Abstract	<p>This document provides an overview of the 2026-2028 review of the Assessing Fitness to Drive Standards. It explains the purpose of the review, the role of the Standards in supporting nationally consistent fitness to drive assessments, the feedback currently being sought from stakeholders, and the planned phases of the review.</p> <p>The NTC invites feedback to help identify issues, evidence and opportunities for improvement to inform development of the updated Standards.</p>
Attribution	This work should be attributed as follows, Source: National Transport Commission (2026) <i>Assessing Fitness to Drive Review Consultation Overview</i> , National Transport Commission, Melbourne.
Key words	Assessing Fitness to Drive, AFTD, driver medical standards, fitness to drive, driver licensing, road safety, health assessment, medical conditions, licensing authorities, consultation
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About this document

This document provides an overview of the 2026-2028 review of the Assessing Fitness to Drive Standards (the Standards).

It explains:

- what the Standards are
- why the review is being undertaken
- the type of feedback currently being sought
- the planned phases of the review
- how stakeholders can participate.

This initial consultation phase aims to identify issues, evidence and opportunities for improvement to inform the review process.

This consultation period runs from 4 June 2026 to 17 July 2026.

1 Background

What the Standards are

The Assessing Fitness to Drive Standards are the nationally agreed medical criteria and guidance used by health professionals and driver licensing authorities across all Australian states and territories when determining medical fitness to drive.

The Standards support road safety by providing a nationally consistent basis for assessing and managing fitness to drive for people with medical conditions or functional limitations.

The Standards assist health professionals to:

- Consider fitness to drive and driving needs in the routine care of their patients
- Advise patients about the impact of medical conditions and functional limitations on their ability to drive safely
- Conduct fitness to drive assessments for licensing of drivers as required by licensing authorities and provide recommendations accordingly, and
- Manage and monitor health conditions to support patients' ongoing fitness to drive or their transition to not driving.

The Standards also provide guidance to driver licensing authorities in making licensing decisions, acknowledging that driver health is amongst a range of factors considered when issuing or renewing a driver's licence.

There are separate criteria for private and commercial vehicle drivers, reflecting the different risk profiles associated with each.

How the Standards are developed

The Standards are a joint publication of the NTC and Austroads. The NTC leads the development and review of the content in consultation with health professionals, clinical subject matter experts, driver licensing authorities, industry, consumer groups and road safety researchers.

The Standards are approved by Commonwealth, state and territory transport ministers through the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting (ITMM).

How the Standards are applied in driver licensing

The Standards contain medical criteria to guide health professionals in determining whether a person with a medical condition is:

- fit to hold an unconditional licence
- fit to hold a conditional licence (which may involve restrictions or requirements to be monitored through regular health assessments)
- not fit to hold a driver's licence.

The driver licensing authority then considers the health professional's advice, along with other relevant factors when making the final licensing decision.

There are two sets of medical criteria – one for private vehicle drivers and one for commercial vehicle drivers. The fitness to drive criteria for commercial vehicle drivers are more stringent than for private vehicle drivers due to the higher road safety risks.

This means that a person who is assessed as not fit to drive a commercial vehicle may still be able to hold a private vehicle licence, if they meet the private vehicle criteria.

Review frequency

The Standards are reviewed approximately every four to five years. The most recent comprehensive review was completed in 2022. Regular reviews ensure the Standards remain up to date, reflect current medical best practice and meet the needs of users.

The current review commenced in March 2026 and is expected to conclude with publication of the 2028 update of the Standards.

As part of this review, we will engage a diverse range of stakeholders, including people living with medical conditions or disabilities, health professionals, industry stakeholders, road safety experts and licensing authorities.

This will help ensure the updated Standards reflect multiple perspectives and continue to support safety for all road users, while ensuring people with medical conditions or functional limitations are considered individually and treated fairly and consistently.

Accessing the current Standards

The current edition of the Standards (2022) is available on the Austroads website at www.austroads.gov.au/drivers-and-vehicles/assessing-fitness-to-drive.

It can be accessed online, downloaded as a PDF, or purchased as a hard copy by contacting publications@austroads.gov.au.

2 About the review

Aim of the review

The review aims to ensure the Standards reflect current clinical and road safety evidence and contemporary practice. This includes addressing emerging medical, social and regulatory issues.

The review also aims to improve the clarity, consistency and usability of the Standards for health professionals and licensing authorities.

The review will result in publication of an updated AFTD edition, and an accompanying review report documenting the evidence base and rationale for all changes.

Scope of the review

The review will address all content within the Standards, including:

- general content associated with the principles and processes of assessing fitness to drive (Part A),
- the assessment and management guidelines and licensing criteria for particular medical conditions (Part B), and
- the jurisdictional information contained in Part C.

In relation to medical conditions and treatments likely to affect fitness to drive, the review will seek to update existing information as well as develop new content as required to address emerging issues identified through research and stakeholder consultation.

While the review will update information about relevant road safety legislation and policy in the states and territories, it will not review or make recommendations about that legislation. This includes legislation or policy relating to:

- reporting of medical conditions by drivers and health professionals
- which health professionals can conduct fitness to drive assessments for licensing authorities
- whether certain drivers require periodic fitness to drive assessments (e.g. older drivers, heavy vehicle drivers, public passenger vehicle drivers).

The NTC welcomes input about implementation issues, including what actions may be required to improve quality and consistency of application of the Standards. Where relevant and feasible, revisions to the content may address some of these issues. Issues that cannot be addressed in this way will be noted in the project report, with recommendations as appropriate for relevant stakeholders to consider.

3 Current consultation focus

Issues identification

Initial consultation is now underway to help identify issues relevant to the review, including:

- Areas where the Standards may not reflect current evidence or clinical best practice
- Areas where the Standards may be unclear, inconsistent or difficult to apply
- Emerging medical, road safety or implementation issues
- Evidence or research relevant to fitness to drive assessment and management.

We welcome feedback from:

- Medical practitioners, specialists and other health professionals
- Community groups and people with medical conditions or functional limitations affected by the Standards
- Driver licensing authorities and government transport agencies
- Industry bodies and operators, particularly those representing heavy vehicle and commercial transport
- Unions
- Road safety researchers and academics
- Any member of the public with relevant experience or interest

Where possible, stakeholders are encouraged to provide supporting evidence or examples to inform the review.

Have your say

Submissions can be made:

- through the online submission form at www.ntc.gov.au/project/assessing-fitness-drive-review
- by emailing: AFTDreview@ntc.gov.au

Submissions are open until 17 July 2026.

Feedback received during this stage will help inform development of the revised Standards.

Ongoing consultation opportunities

Further public consultation will occur during 2027 once draft revisions to the Standards have been developed. Details on how to participate will be published on the NTC website at the time.

All feedback received will be considered alongside clinical evidence and expert advice. Feedback from consultation will be captured, reviewed and synthesised by the NTC to help inform consideration by expert advisors.

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A consultation report will be prepared documenting the feedback received and the NTC's response to key issues raised.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss consultation opportunities with the NTC, please contact us at AFTDreview@ntc.gov.au.

4 Review process and phases

The review will be delivered across four phases between 2026 and 2028.

- **Phase 1 – Initial consultation and issue identification**
March 2026 – September 2026
Initial stakeholder consultation to identify issues and gather evidence to inform the review.
- **Phase 2 – Drafting and technical review**
September 2026 – March 2027
Development of proposed revisions to the Standards, informed by specialist working groups, medical experts and stakeholder input.
- **Phase 3 – Public consultation on draft Standards**
February 2027 – July 2027
Public consultation on proposed changes to the revised Standards.
- **Phase 4 – Finalisation and publication**
July 2027 – March 2028
Finalisation, endorsement and publication of the Standards.



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