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To the Project Manager – AFTD Review Team

Assessing Fitness to Drive (AFTD)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the draft guidelines to ***Assessing Fitness to drive for commercial and private vehicle drivers (AFTD)***.

RAA is committed to assisting road users and advocating on their behalf and supports increased awareness to ensure all drivers are medically fit to hold a current driver's licence.

Whilst RAA cannot provide input into the medical standards and clinical management guidelines for driver licensing in Australia, RAA believes that a nationally consistent approach to administering the arrangements would better support health professionals and driver licensing authorities.

We appreciate that the effectiveness of the AFTD standards is somewhat reliant on drivers firstly being aware of any conditions that could impact their ability to drive safely and once aware, taking appropriate action through their health care provider to manage any such issues. Anecdotally, we understand it is challenging for some health care providers to engage in the process for fear of losing their relationship with their patient (even in states with mandatory reporting), let alone in those states without it.

We therefore support a review of the administrative arrangements concerning the AFTD guidelines to ensure that drivers understand:

- their responsibilities to be physically and mentally capable of safely operating their vehicle
- what they need to do when it is evident that they are experiencing health issues that affect their ability to continue to drive safely.

In addition, consideration should be given to moving towards mandatory reporting of conditions across jurisdictions that impact a person's fitness to drive. We look forward to receiving the final publication later this year and welcome the opportunity to provide feedback should the NTC consider further amendment to the administrative standards and arrangements to assessing fitness to drive.