

**Australian College of Nurse Practitioners response to:**

**NATIONAL TRANSPORT COMMISSION**

**Assessing Fitness to Drive (AFTD)**

11<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to Assessing Fitness to Drive (AFTD).

The Australian College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP) is the national peak organisation for Nurse Practitioners, advancing nursing practice and consumer access to health care. We actively seek opportunities to contribute to improvements to safety, quality and access to health care.

Please see below for comments relating to the consultation from the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners.

**The suitability of the changes in the updated draft guidelines**

*ACNP Response – The changes are suitable*

**Your experience with the current AFTD guidelines and any suggestions you have to make the next version more user-friendly**

*ACNP Response – While we understand that the previous guidelines did not preclude or prohibit nurse practitioners (NP) from AFTD, we are aware of numerous rejections of NP assessments perhaps only due to the absence of specificity in the guidelines.*

*We suggest in the new guidelines that nurse practitioners are specifically included as health practitioners that can assess fitness to drive, with a similar approach to the capacity of a general practitioner, as nurse practitioners have assessment and diagnostic capacity in public and private settings, including primary and specialist care, as well as rural and remote areas.*

*The rejections occurring currently have significantly impacted on some people and their assessments, requiring additional referrals and waiting periods to see alternate practitioners to AFTD.*

**Any suggestions you have on education or support needed to increase use and knowledge of content in the guidelines**

*ACNP Response – Engagement with professional colleges and associations to assist with disseminating information, and circulating updated guidelines.*

Australian College of Nurse Practitioners

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Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this vitally important review. I would be happy to discuss our responses further, and we look forward to participating in any further consultation.

