

Some advice on

**Getting on the road**



# How do I get my driver’s license?

Every driver on New Zealand roads must sit and pass the standard theory and practical driving test. The stages are the same for everyone but you’re not on your own. If you need some support to make it happen, you can contact:

* I.Drive Learner Licensing Programme help disabled young people to get their learner’s.
* getDriving programme support people living with Cerebral Palsy to gain their restricted.
* Blue Light Youth Driver Navigator Programme supports locals aged 16 to 24 to get their license free of charge in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty.
* Drive Go is the official learn to drive mobile app to help people pass their restricted license.
* Pathways Awarua have worked with New Zealand Transport Agency to help adults and young adults prepare for their learner and restricted driver’s license.
* [New Zealand Transport Agency](https://www.nzta.govt.nz/driver-licences/) explains endorsements and conditions that apply to gaining your license.

## What are the stages to getting your license?

* Start: Learning the road rules
* Learner’s: Pass the theory test of skills and practice.
* Restricted: Pass the practical test to drive solo.
* Full: Pass another practical test to drive with full license privileges.

# I have a temporary disability; can I still drive?

While having a temporary disability may not stop you from driving, you should consider your safety and that of those around you. Talk to your GP about how your driving ability will be affected and how long for. You should also consider your car insurance policy and whether you’d be covered if you had an accident while driving with a temporary disability.

# I have poor vision; can I still drive?

If you have low or monocular vision, it is likely you’ll have a condition on your license saying that you need glasses or contact lenses. All drivers need to have at least 140 degrees of peripheral vision and have a minimum of 6/12 eyesight for a Class 1 license, fortunately there are technologies available to help! It may also be worth contracting a Driver-Trained Occupational Therapist (DTOT) who can advise on what aids would help you.

## Suggestions:

* + Add two convex side mirrors.
  + Add a panoramic rear-view mirror to eliminate all blind spots.
  + Try adding reversing sensors and cameras to your vehicle.
  + Always keep windows clean and clear.
  + Don’t direct air conditioning towards your face as it dries out eyes quicker.
  + Use a larger following distance in slow traffic.
  + Utilise sound to know what’s going on around you, this means less radio and music.
  + Look after your eyes – If you start to feel irritated or tired, take a break.

# I am Deaf/hard of hearing; can I still drive?

There is no law stopping persons who are registered deaf or low hearing from driving. Good driving skills and an awareness of the environment are very important, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) suggests deaf drivers may want to consider purchasing extended mirrors/features to help with everyday driving; however keen visual scanning supplemented with aids such as a visual blind spot detection (flashing light inside mirror when a vehicle comes alongside) are also valuable.

## Suggestions:

* Add additional mirrors to cover blind spots.
* Try adding a reversing camera rather than simply using audible reversing sensors.

# I think I need a vehicle modification; how do I get one?

A vehicle modification can make vehicles accessible for drivers and passengers. You will need to have an assessment from a Driver Trained Occupational Therapist (DTOT) to see if you are eligible for a vehicle modification using public funding.

* Your doctor or health service refers you to a DTOT to assess your needs.
* Your DTOT will identify whether modifications to a vehicle are necessary to support you.

Your DTOT will let you know whether you can get funding assistance from Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People or Te Kaporeihana Āwhina Hunga Whara – ACC or Lotteries Grants Board funding to contribute to the purchase or modification of your vehicle.

### I am covered by Whaikaha

* Step 1: Your DTOT will send a request to Accessable (if you live in Auckland or Northland) or Enable New Zealand Ltd (who cover the rest of New Zealand).
* Step 2: Accessable or Enable New Zealand will check funding applications to make sure your DTOT has considered the different support, transport, and/or equipment options available. This is so that any vehicle or vehicle modification you receive public funding for is suitable and useful in the long term.
* Step 3: If your application is approved and accepted, the modification process will begin with the vehicle modifier.
* Step 4: Your DTOT will confirm that the modifications meet your needs and then you will be shown how to use and look after the modified vehicle.
* Step 5: Documents will be sent to Enable New Zealand or Accessable so payment can be made to the vehicle modifier.

## I am covered by ACC

* Step 1: You will need to contact ACC and say how you believe your injury has affected your ability to access your vehicle and/or driving. This is called a claim.
* Step 2: ACC will assess your claim and let you know if your claim has been accepted.
* Step 3: You will get access to the MyACC portal where you can see all your claim details and information on how ACC will support you to get your vehicle modification.
* Step 5: Once ACC have accepted your claim, they will make a referral to a Transport Provider who will contact you to make an appointment for an assessment.

# I want to know more information about driving with a disability.

* Check out Firstport’s transport section for help to get you where you want to go.
* Visit nzta.govt.nz for more information about driving requirements on the road.
* Contact Enable New Zealand or Accessable for vehicle modification support.

# Contact information:

I.DRIVE Learner Licensing Programme [www.yesdisability.org.nz/i-drive-learner-](http://www.yesdisability.org.nz/i-drive-learner-) licensing-programme/ [josh@yesdisability.org.nz](mailto:josh@yesdisability.org.nz)

getDriving [www.cerebralpalsy.org.nz/member-services/](http://www.cerebralpalsy.org.nz/member-services/) getdriving/

[cpsociety@cpsociety.org.nz](mailto:cpsociety@cpsociety.org.nz)

0800 503 603

Youth Driver Navigator Programme [www.bluelight.co.nz/our-programmes/youth-](http://www.bluelight.co.nz/our-programmes/youth-) driver-navigation-programme/ [info@bluelight.co.nz](mailto:info@bluelight.co.nz)

0800 258 354

Drive GO [www.drive.govt.nz/drive-go/](http://www.drive.govt.nz/drive-go/) [drive@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:drive@nzta.govt.nz)

Pathways Awarua[www.pathwaysawarua.com](http://www.pathwaysawarua.com/) [support@pathwaysawarua.com](mailto:support@pathwaysawarua.com)

Enable New Zealand Ltd

[www.enable.co.nz](http://www.enable.co.nz/)

0800 ENABLE (0800 362 253)

[enable@enable.co.nz](mailto:enable@enable.co.nz)

**Accessable** [www.accessable.co.nz](http://www.accessable.co.nz/) 0508 001 002

[info@accessable.co.nz](mailto:info@accessable.co.nz)

Lottery Grants Board [www.communitymatters.govt.nz/lottery-](http://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/lottery-) grants-board/

0800 824 824

[community.matters@dia.govt.nz](mailto:community.matters@dia.govt.nz)

Whaikaha - Minsitry of Disabled People [www.whaikaha.govt.nz](http://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/) [contact@whaikaha.govt.nz](mailto:contact@whaikaha.govt.nz)

0800 566 601

## ACC - Te Kaporeihana Āwhina Hunga Whara

[www.acc.co.nz](http://www.acc.co.nz/) [claims@acc.co.nz](mailto:claims@acc.co.nz) 0800 101 996

## New Zealand Transport Agency

[www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/) 0800 822 422

Firstport[www.firstport.co.nz](http://www.firstport.co.nz/) [comms@firstport.co.nz](mailto:comms@firstport.co.nz)