



SAFER DRIVING

A photograph of an elderly man and woman standing outdoors. The man is on the left, wearing a white polo shirt and light-colored trousers, smiling broadly. The woman is on the right, wearing a pink patterned top and a blue patterned scarf, also smiling. They are positioned in front of a dark-colored car. The background shows a paved road and a grassy field under a clear blue sky.

# Maintain your driving independence

Information on older driver  
tests and assessments.

## What senior drivers need to know about the licensing system.

### From 75 years

In NSW and ACT, you're required to have an annual medical examination to retain your licence once you reach 75. Before your birthday you'll receive a form for your doctor to complete.

If your doctor considers you **medically fit to drive**, hand the completed form into your local motor registry.

If your doctor has **concerns about your ability to drive**, they may refer you onto another doctor for a detailed medical Assessment and/or Driving Test. Your doctor will then send the completed form directly to the RMS or RTA.

### From 85 years

In NSW, before your 85th birthday you must decide whether you'd like to keep an unrestricted driver's licence or opt to switch to a modified licence. You'll need to reassess this decision every 2 years thereafter.

### Unrestricted licence

If you opt to keep an unrestricted driver's licence, you're required to complete a practical **Driving Test** or **Assessment** to maintain your existing licence.

### Modified licence

If you opt for a modified licence, you negotiate to modify conditions of your licence with the RMS. For example, a 'home to town' condition might be negotiated, where you're able to drive short distances only. Modified licence holders aren't required to undertake a **Driving Test** or **Assessment**.

## The difference between Driving Tests and Assessments.

### NSW Driving Test

- A practical Driving Test is carried out by the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) at your local motor registry, free of charge.
- You should complete this test prior to your 85th birthday and every two years thereafter.
- If you commit one of the 8 'Fail Items\*\*' during the test, the RMS will not award a pass – regardless of your overall driving performance.
- After 3 failed attempts you'll be issued a **modified licence**. You may attempt to upgrade to an **unrestricted licence** by successfully passing a **Driving Assessment** with an accredited assessor, like the NRMA.

### NSW Driving Assessment

- A practical Driving Test carried out by a licensed driving instructor who holds a Senior Assessor Qualification, including **NRMA Safer Driving**.
- Assessments are generally conducted starting at your home and on roads you drive every day in your local area.
- You should complete this Assessment prior to your 85th birthday and then every two years thereafter.
- You can repeat Assessments as many times as you like, provided you don't perform a 'Serious Fail\*\*' based on the RMS standards.
- This option is a charged service.



## We can help you prepare

Ensure you are well-prepared by taking a **Refresher Lesson** before your Driving Test or Assessment.

**Refresher Lessons** update you on the latest road rules, provide feedback on areas for improvement, and increase your knowledge of 'Fail Items' for undertaking a Driving Test at the RMS.

The trusted experts at NRMA Safer Driving can help you prepare to maintain your driving independence with **Refresher Lessons** and **Driving Assessments**.

Call **1300 696 762** or visit **[nrmasaferdriving.com.au/senior](http://nrmasaferdriving.com.au/senior)** to book a Refresher Lesson or your Driving Assessment with NRMA Safer Driving.

Brought to you by  **The National Roads & Motorists' Association**

\*A list of the 'Fail Items' can be found in the Guide to Older Driver Licensing booklet available from the RMS. A 'Serious Fail' result may be recorded for a practical Driving Assessment where your driving behaviours represent a danger to yourself or other road users.

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