

Renewing your driver licence as a senior

The process from age 65 onwards



Contents

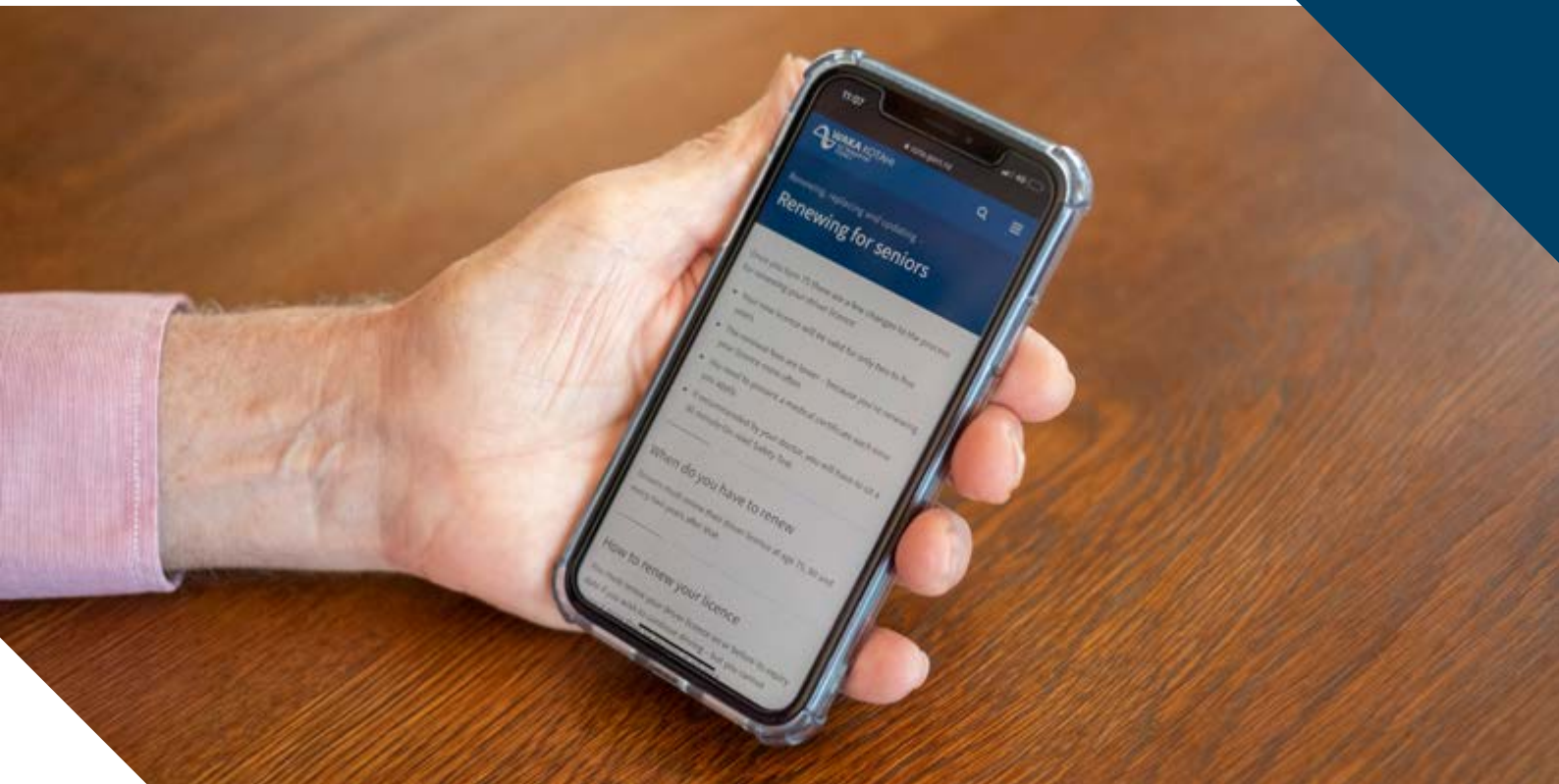
The renewal process	3
Medically fit to drive	7
Medically fit to drive with licence conditions	8
Medical fitness and the on-road safety test	10
Medically fit to drive if a specialist agrees	14
Not fit to drive	17
Alternative ways of getting around	19
Support and further information	22

Note: A number of internet links for further information are provided in this booklet, so it can be useful to have access to the internet when reading this booklet (on smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer). The support agencies listed on page 22 will be able to help you if you do not have an internet connected device.

You can download this guide to your device at:
www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/renewing-your-driver-licence-as-a-senior

Free hardcopies of this resource can be ordered by calling: 0800 822 422.

The renewal process



This booklet has information on the process for renewing your driver licence as a senior. Senior drivers are drivers who are age 65 or above. Most senior drivers of cars and motorbikes are very experienced and safe drivers, making them great role models for younger drivers.

Licence renewals change after age 65

The 10-year renewal period begins to shorten when you turn 65, as you need to renew at 75 with a medical check.

The next age for renewal, with medical checks, is 80, then every two years after that.

The reason for the medical check-up is because bodily and sensory changes are more common after the age of 65. The medical check-up gives you peace of mind that you are still safe to drive.

Sometimes the medical check-up shows that people are not safe to drive, and we appreciate that this can be a very upsetting experience. Keeping mobile, personal freedom and having the ability to get around is important for everyone, whether or not we drive. Our *Getting around as a senior* booklet gives more information on a wide range of transport options.



Receiving your licence renewal reminder at age 75 or over

About six weeks before your licence expires, you will receive a driver licence renewal reminder in the mail. This tells you what you need to do to renew your licence. We'll post or email your renewal reminder to the address we have on file for you.

You can phone 0800 822 422 to check or change your address and other details, or visit: www.nzta.govt.nz/address

You'll need to complete a *Driver licence application form* (DL1) which will be with your renewal reminder. If you want a form in advance, you can get one from a driver licence agent. A list of agents is available at: www.nzta.govt.nz/agent

Licence renewal fees are lower from the age of 75 onwards, as you are renewing your licence more often.

You will also need to book an appointment for your medical check-up with your health care professional at your health centre. Your health care professional (GP or nurse) will then complete the *Medical certificate for driver licence* (DL9).

You can renew up to six months in advance of your birthday, and you must renew before the date of your licence expiry if you want to keep driving. It's a good idea to book your medical check-up appointment as soon as possible so that your licence does not expire while you are waiting for an appointment, or the outcome of an assessment.

Your medical check-up appointment

At your medical check-up appointment, your health care professional will talk to you about your health, test your eyesight and do a medical examination. Then they'll decide whether you are:

- medically fit to drive (see page 7)
- medically fit to drive - with conditions (see page 8)
- medically fit to drive - if you pass an on-road safety test (see page 10)
- medically fit to drive - if a specialist agrees (see page 14)
- not fit to drive (see page 17).

How to renew your licence – the process at a glance

When you turn 75, when you turn 80, and every two years after that, you must get a *Medical certificate for driver licence* from your health care professional.



You might want to talk about issues related to renewing your licence with your peers. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and Age Concern provide free 'Staying Safe' refresher theory courses for Senior drivers around Aotearoa/New Zealand. This free refresher course offers the chance to meet up with other Senior drivers to discuss driving and transport related matters in a relaxed and friendly environment.

You can find out where your nearest course is at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/staying-safe

Medically fit to drive



If you're certified as being 'Medically fit to drive', you then need to visit a driver licensing agent in your area with your medical certificate, which will have been signed by your health care professional. You need to do this within 60 days of the health care professional signing the certificate.

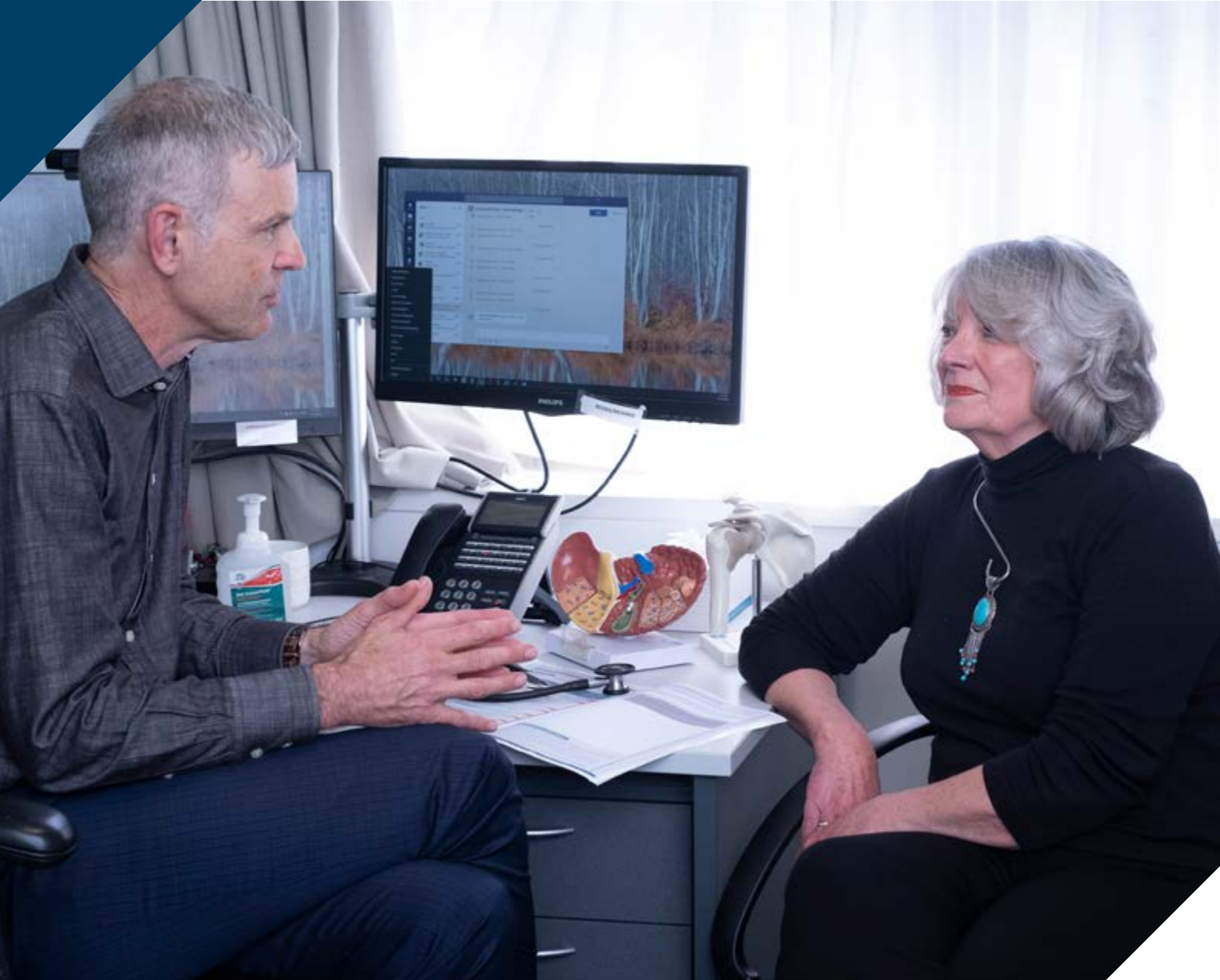
You will also need to take photo ID (your current licence or your passport) and the fee for renewing your licence (details of the fee to pay will be with your driver licence renewal reminder).

You can find your nearest agent by visiting: **www.nzta.govt.nz/agent**

Once you have completed your paperwork and have had your photo taken, you will be issued with a temporary licence which is valid for 21 days. Your new driver licence will then arrive within 7-10 days.

Your new licence will have stated expiry dates for each of the classes that you hold. When the renewal process is next due, you'll receive a new driver licence renewal reminder in the mail. This will be sent to you within the six weeks leading up to your new licence expiry date. Keep your address details up to date at: **www.nzta.govt.nz/address** or call us on 0800 822 422.

Medically fit to drive with licence conditions



If you are certified as being 'Medically fit to drive with licence conditions', this means that your health care professional has agreed with you that you can only drive safely if you do certain things. These things are 'conditions'.

Some of the conditions that may be applied to a driving licence include:

- Corrective lenses must be worn at all times while driving.
- Only vehicles with an automatic transmission may be driven.
- Only drive a certain number of kilometres from your home.
- Vehicle must have external mirrors on both sides.
- Daytime driving only.
- Yearly checks.

If you are certified as being Medically fit to drive with licence conditions, you then need to visit a driver licensing agent in your area with your medical certificate, which will have been signed by your health care professional. You need to do this within 60 days of the health care professional signing the certificate.

You will also need to take photo ID (your current licence or your passport), completed driver licence application form, and the fee for renewing your licence (details of the fee to pay will be with your driver licence renewal reminder). You can find your nearest agent at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/agent

Once you have completed your paperwork and have had your photo taken, you will be issued with a temporary licence which is valid for 21 days. Your new driver licence will then arrive within 7-10 days. When your new licence arrives, it will usually have the conditions stated on the back of the licence.

Your new licence will have stated expiry dates for each of the classes that you hold. When the renewal process is next due, you'll receive a new driver licence renewal reminder in the mail. This will be sent to you within the six weeks leading up to your new licence expiry date. Keep your address details up to date at: **www.nzta.govt.nz/address** or call us on 0800 822 422.



Medical fitness and the on-road safety test



If your health care professional has a concern about your functional ability to drive safely, they will refer you for an on-road safety test which is done by a testing officer.

The health care professional will give you a signed medical certificate that recommends 'further assessment'. To renew your licence, you need to pass an on-road safety test, that will be conducted by a testing officer.

To book your test, you need to visit a driver licensing agent in your area with your signed medical certificate. You need to do this within 60 days of the health care professional signing the certificate.

You'll also need to take photo ID (your current licence or your passport), your completed driver licence application form, and the fee for renewing your licence. Details of the fees to pay will be in your driver licence renewal reminder.

You can find your nearest agent at: www.nzta.govt.nz/agent



Preparing for your test

You can find out more about the on-road safety test in the Waka Kotahi booklet *Guide to the on-road safety test* which is available at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/on-road-safety-test/

The guide includes information on:

- what you should do before the test
- what the test will include
- tips to help you pass.

The Automobile Association (AA) provide free one on one in-car coaching sessions to AA members (for people aged 74 and over – membership fees apply), which you may find helpful in advance of the test. You can find out more at: **www.aa.co.nz/senior-driver**

Many other driving schools also provide refresher sessions for seniors (fees apply). Check with your local driving school by doing an internet search or by looking in your local business telephone directory.



If you fail the test

If you fail your test, you can book another test at no extra charge.

If you're worried about this, you might benefit from enrolling in a free 'Staying Safe' refresher course - see page 22 for more information. You could also book a coaching session with AA, or a local driving school before you sit the test again.

If your licence has expired, you'll be given a temporary driver licence. In this situation you can only drive if another fully licensed driver is with you in the car, until you pass the test.

If you are not able to pass the test and keep driving safely, you won't be able to renew your licence. See *Not fit to drive* (page 17).

If you pass the test

If you pass the test, you don't have to go back to your health care professional. The testing officer will give you a temporary driver licence which is valid for 21 days. Your new driver licence will then arrive within 7-10 days.

Your new licence will have stated expiry dates for each of the classes that you hold. When the renewal process is next due you will receive a new driver licence renewal reminder in the mail. This will be sent to you within the six weeks leading up to your new licence expiry date.

Keep your address details up to date via: www.nzta.govt.nz/address or call us on 0800 822 422.

Medically fit to drive if a specialist agrees



If your health care professional is concerned that your health could affect your ability to drive safely, and specialist assessment is required, they will refer you to see a specialist.

For example, you might need to see an optometrist to have your eyesight checked. Or an occupational therapist might need to check that you can safely cope with complex driving situations.

Fees are associated with an occupational therapist's comprehensive 'off-road' assessment, combined with an 'on-road' assessment. More details are available in *Factsheet 51: OT assessments: occupational therapists (OT) and driver licensing*, or call OTNZ on 04 473 6510, or at: www.otnz.co.nz/contact You can find all our factsheets at: www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/factsheets/category

If the specialist certifies you as being medically fit to drive

Conditions may be recommended depending on the outcome of the assessment. These include:

- Corrective lenses must be worn at all times while driving.
- Only vehicles with an automatic transmission may be driven.
- Only drive a certain number of kilometres from your home.
- Vehicle must have rear-view mirrors on both sides.
- Daytime driving only.
- Yearly checks.

If you are certified as being medically fit to drive, you then need to visit a driver licensing agent in your area with your medical certificate, which will have been signed by your specialist. You need to do this within 60 days of the specialist signing the certificate.



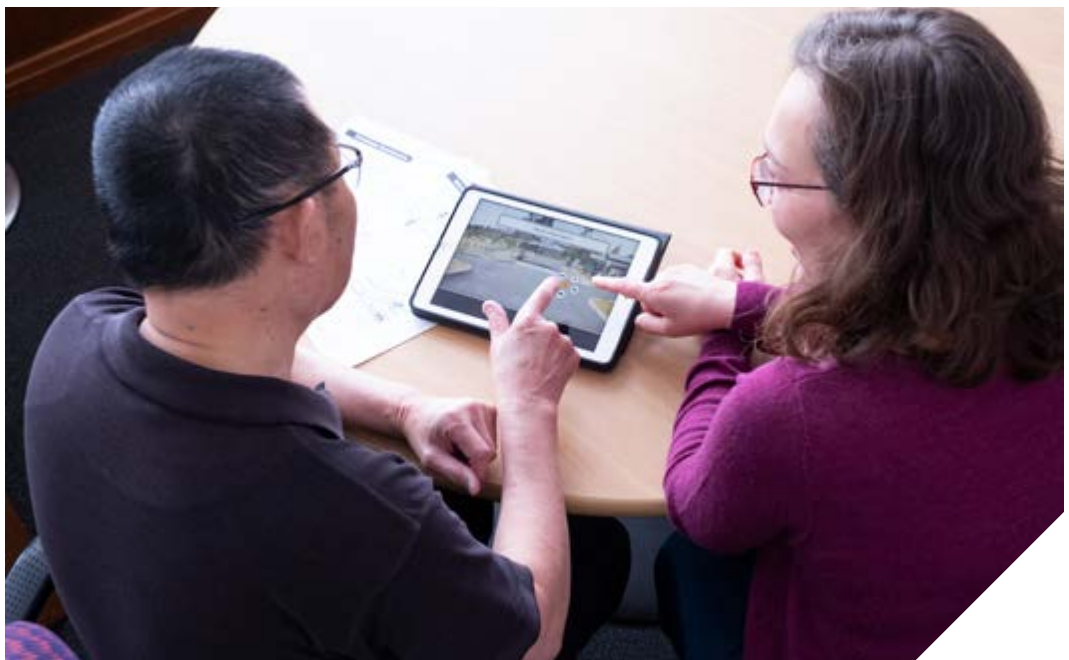
You will also need to take photo ID (your current licence or your passport), completed driver licence application form, and the fee for renewing your licence (details of the fee to pay will be with your driver licence renewal reminder). You can find your nearest agent at: **www.nzta.govt.nz/agent**

Once you have completed your paperwork and have had your photo taken, you will be issued with a temporary licence which is valid for 21 days. Your new driver licence will then arrive within 7-10 days. When your new licence arrives, it will usually have the conditions stated on the back of the licence.

Your new licence will have stated expiry dates for each of the classes that you hold. When the renewal process is next due, you'll receive a new driver licence renewal reminder in the mail. This will be sent to you within the six weeks leading up to your new licence expiry date. Keep your address details up to date via: **www.nzta.govt.nz/address** or call us on 0800 822 422.

If the specialist certifies you as being not fit to drive

If the specialist decides you are not able to keep driving safely, you won't be able to renew your licence. This means that it is now no longer safe or legal for you to drive. See the information in the next section, *Not fit to drive*.



Not fit to drive



Your health care professional has decided that it's safer for you and others on the road if you don't keep driving. This means that it is now no longer safe or legal for you to drive, and you will not be able to renew your licence.

Your health care professional will inform Waka Kotahi, as they are legally required to do this.

We appreciate that not being fit to drive can be an upsetting experience. The agencies listed on page 22 can help provide support and practical suggestions to assist you. The Waka Kotahi *Getting around as a senior* booklet gives more information on a wide range of transport options and is available at: www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/getting-around-as-a-senior

Keeping mobile, personal freedom and having the ability to get around is important for everyone, whether or not we drive. Retiring from driving is a change but not an end. By planning ahead, and with support from others, you can still get around in your community and do the things you want to do. You will still be able to live your life to the full without driving.



Alternative ways of getting around



There are a wide range of options for seniors when it comes to getting around without a car or motorbike. Making use of these options helps you to maintain your independence and freedom. The *Getting around as a senior* booklet gives more information, and is available at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/getting-around-as-a-senior

The Office for Seniors also provides a very useful brochure *No car, no problem* which is available at: **www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz/health-wellbeing/out-about/transport-driving**



It's good to be thinking about our abilities and our transport options as seniors. Thinking about the options and benefits of getting around without a car or motorbike when we are in good health gives us a chance to adjust gradually in a positive way.

Many people of all ages opt for getting around without a car, even when they can drive and are licensed to do so. There are many benefits of using different ways of getting around, including:

- Saving money.
- Using the time to do other activities such as reading and writing, while someone else takes the strain of driving.
- Being safe and comfortable, when taking public transport.
- Having social interactions, particularly if you travel with people you know.
- Supporting a person's health (eg walking to the bus stop).
- Supporting the community and the planet (less pollution).

The options include:

- Shared rides and possibly the Total Mobility Scheme.
- Bus/rail and making use of your SuperGold card.
- Biking.
- Mobility scooters.
- Walking.

Only some areas of the country have a train service, but most areas have a bus service. Contact your local council to see what's available in your community. All areas of the country are served by taxi or shared ride/community transport services, so it's worth finding out which taxi or shared ride/community transport services operate in your area. There are a number of driving providers that specifically support senior drivers. Age Concern, or your local council can usually help you with information about these providers, and the potential for savings in relation to regular travel needs (see page 22).



Support and further information

Age Concern

www.ageconcern.org.nz

Phone: 0800 65 2 105

Email: national.office@ageconcern.org.nz

Free 'Staying Safe' refresher theory courses:

www.nzta.govt.nz/staying-safe

Office for Seniors

www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz

Email: osc@msd.govt.nz

Local councils

www.localcouncils.govt.nz

Click on 'Council Profiles'

Neighbourhood support

www.neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz

Phone: 0800 463 444

NZ Automobile Association (AA)

www.aa.co.nz/contact-us

Phone: 0800 500 444

(Fees apply to access AA services)

Vehicle Testing NZ (VTNZ)

www.vtnz.co.nz/contact-us

Phone 0800 88 88 69

(Fees apply to access VTNZ services)

This booklet is also available online
[www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/
renewing-your-driver-
licence-as-a-senior](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/renewing-your-driver-licence-as-a-senior)



All the internet links contained within the booklet are live so you can click on them for further information on each subject.

Primary health care

To access health care professionals (GP or nurse)

www.healthpoint.co.nz/gps-accident-urgent-medical-care

www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/health-care-services/visiting-doctor-or-nurse

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

www.nzta.govt.nz/senior-drivers

Phone: 0800 822 422

Email: info@nzta.govt.nz

The following Waka Kotahi publications are free, and include information that you might find useful:

- *The road ahead for seniors* - a pamphlet which gives a brief overview of our core senior driver information booklets
- *Driving safely as a senior*
- *Supporting senior drivers*
- *Getting around as a senior*
- *Renewing your driver licence as a senior*
- *Road rules refresher for seniors*
- *Check your car*
- *Guide to the on-road safety test*
- *Safer winter driving*

To get copies of any of these publications

Email: info@nzta.govt.nz

Visit: www-ak.bspg.co.nz/WebForm/NZTAWN_PB?form=Public%20Publications

Phone: 0800 822 422

You can find all our factsheets at

www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/factsheets/category

- *Factsheet 1: Cycles, road rules and equipment*
- *Factsheet 7: Child restraints*
- *Factsheet 16: Diabetes and driving*
- *Factsheet 17: Epilepsy and driving*
- *Factsheet 23: Dementia and driving*
- *Factsheet 24: Fatigue: staying alert while you're driving*
- *Factsheet 25: Vision and driving*
- *Factsheet 31: Disabilities and driving*
- *Factsheet 51: OT assessments: occupational therapists (OT) and driver licensing*
- *Factsheet 57: Older drivers: licence renewal*

Road codes

www.nzta.govt.nz/roadcode

Our postal address

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

Private Bag 11777

Palmerston North 4442



If you have further queries,
call our contact centre on
0800 699 000 or write to us:

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Private Bag 6995
Wellington 6141

This publication is also available on
our website at www.nzta.govt.nz



[New Zealand Government](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)

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Waka Kotahi
NZ Transport Agency

ISBN 978-1-99-004408-3 (print)

ISBN 978-1-99-004403-8 (online)

NZBN: 9429041910085