

Powered Mobility Devices

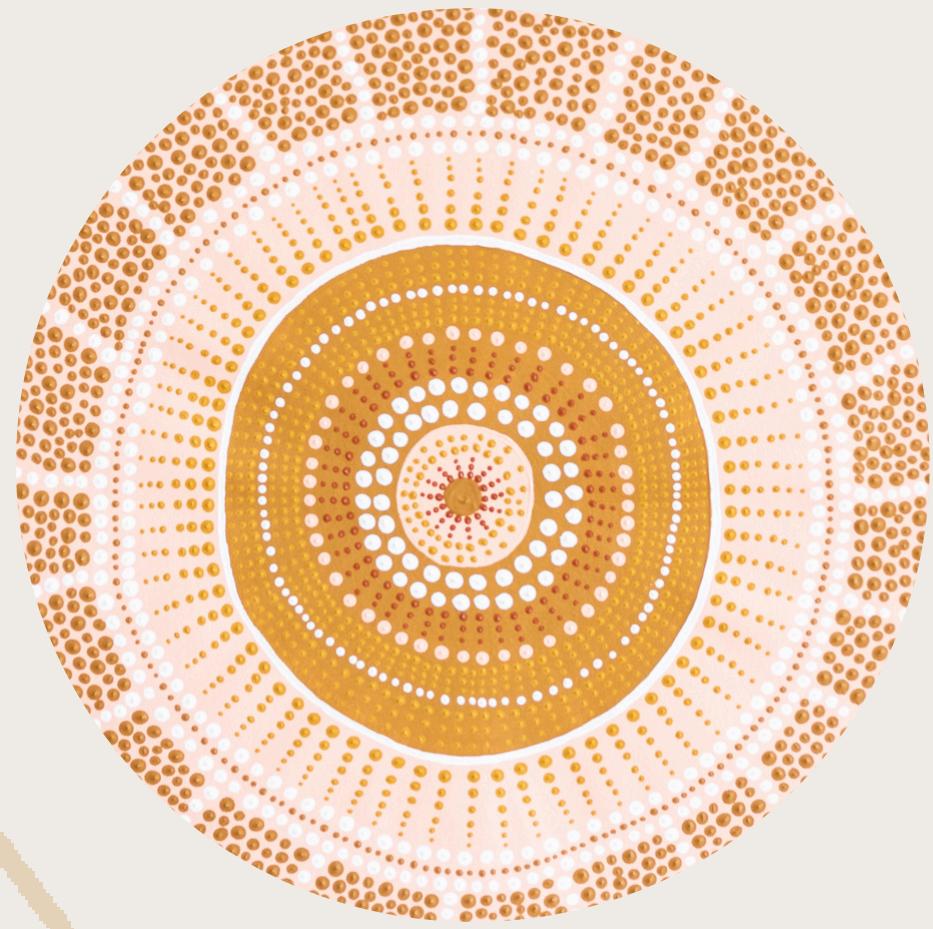
Assessment & Prescription Process for OTs



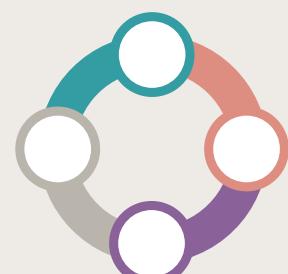
presented by
Angie Contreras

INCLUSIVE OT





In the spirit of reconciliation, Inclusive OT acknowledges the Aboriginal lands, where we are all gathering at throughout Australia. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples joining us today.





What to expect from this session

- ✓ Definitions and Terminology
- ✓ Introduction to PMD assessment & prescription
- ✓ The OT role in PMD prescription
- ✓ Assessment of Cognitive, Physical & Psychosocial Skills
- ✓ The Driving Assessment
- ✓ PMD device types
- ✓ Prescription & Training
- ✓ Documentation & report writing according to funding body

Learning Objectives



- 1 **Understand the key considerations** and safety guidelines outlined in "A guide for choosing and using mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs" provided by Vic Roads and the Victorian State Government.
- 2 **Familiarise yourself** with the POWERED MOBILITY DEVICE ASSESSMENT TRAINING TOOL (**PoMoDATT**) and learn how to effectively navigate and utilise this resource in the assessment process.
- 3 **Gain insights into the assessment criteria** for determining the most suitable powered mobility device for a client, taking into account their unique needs, preferences, and physical capabilities.
- 4 **Identify the skills** needed to conduct a **comprehensive assessment** of a client's mobility and functional needs, including their environment, to make informed decisions regarding powered mobility device prescription.
- 5 **Adopt best practice process** in collaborating with clients, their families, and other healthcare professionals to ensure a client-centered approach to powered mobility device assessment and prescription.

DIFFERENT
BUT THE SAME

Terminology

Motorised Mobility Device (MMD)



Powered Mobility Device (PMD)



Disability Scooter



**Power /powered
wheelchair or
Powerchair (PWC)**



Mobility or Motorised Scooter



Electric or Motorised Wheelchair



Definitions



Waugh, K. and Crane, B. (2013)
Glossary of wheelchair terms and definitions



Scooter

A power mobility device designed to provide mobility in a sitting position, with a platform style base that serves as both the foot support and the structural support for the wheels, seating system and steering mechanism. These devices have a captain style seat and/or back support without attached foot support, and a tiller to control movement and steering functions. Includes 3-wheeled scooters and 4-wheeled scooters

Power wheelchair

Wheelchair in which the motor power is derived from an integral source of electric power.

Typically suited for people who are less mobile, unable to walk or weight bear, UL impairments, and those needing pressure care or more customised seating eg cushions , tilt in space

Introduction

Every year, over 1,000 individuals in Australia find themselves hospitalised due to injuries linked to mobility scooters (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2019).

The vast majority of injuries involve PMD users themselves and typically occur due to the following reasons:

- the scooter tipping over
- colliding with stationary objects
- the user tripping or falling from the scooter
- colliding with moving objects.



The role of the OT in PMD prescription

Assess whether the use of such a device is suitable for their specific needs and circumstances.

Have an understanding of funding options available for mobility device acquisition.

Provide guidance in selecting the most appropriate device to meet their mobility needs.

Collaborate with healthcare professionals and adjust device usage accordingly.

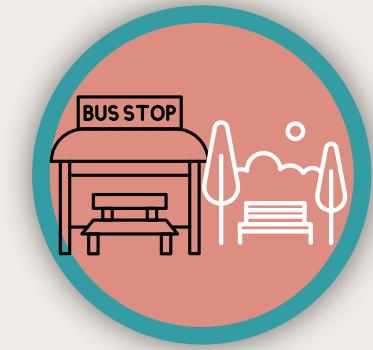
Offer training and support to ensure safe and effective device usage.

Educate and inform family members and caregivers on how to support individuals using these devices.

Helping Clients Develop PMD Skills



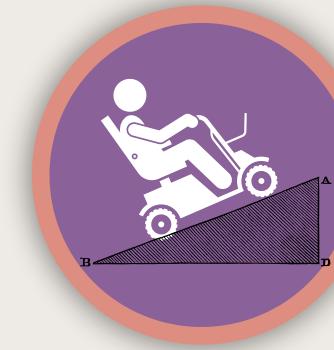
**Basic operations
such as turning
and reversing**



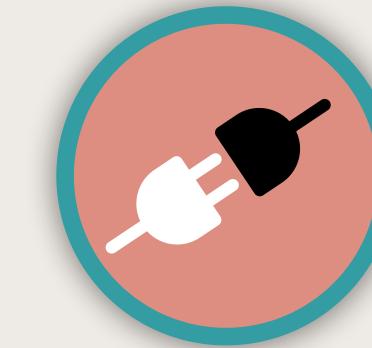
**How to manage
the device in
different
circumstances,
environments
and on different
terrains**



**How to
crossroads
safely including
how to
negotiate kerbs**



**how to avoid
tipping over
while using
the PMD**

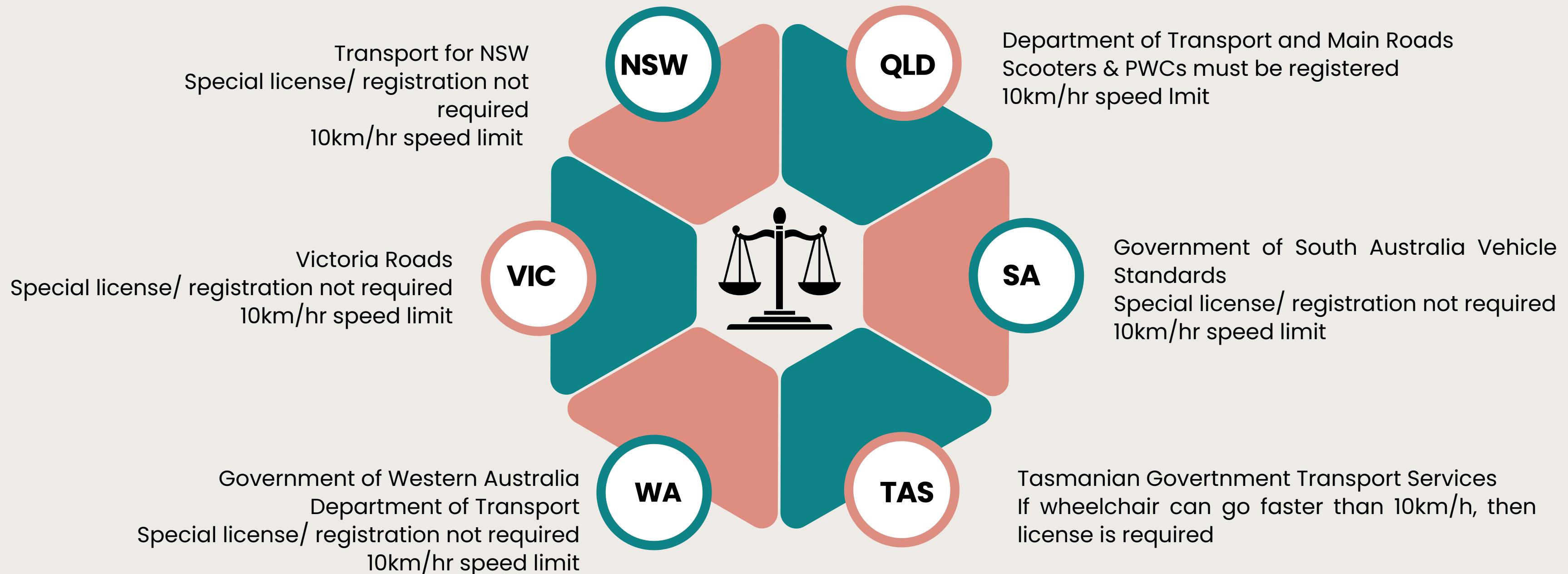


**how to charge
and store the
PMD**



**Document
assessment
findings,
interpret test
results, write
funding
applications/
reports**

Legislation & Guidelines



Check your State laws re- age minimums, load maximums, and other relevant rules that will impact your clients!

“There is no formula for prescribing a wheelchair or scooter; rather it is an incremental process. When the person and the wheelchair or scooters are well matched the impact of the person’s impairment is reduced, enabling them to achieve goals, participate in life roles and improve their health and quality of life.”

(Guidelines for the prescription of a seated wheelchair or mobility scooter for people with a traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury, 2011)

Clinical Pathway

This clinical pathway and supporting tools reflect a best practice approach to MMD assessment and training

- Referral
- Assessment
- Device recommendations
- Education and training
- Communication
- Monitoring and review

(c) 2021 Road Safety Victoria

GP or other health professional
Referral to occupational therapist or appointment requested by client/family

Medical practitioners have an important role in advising about medical conditions that may impact on or preclude use of these devices.

Occupational therapist assessment

A three-step process:

- Establishes client goals and expectations
- Clinical assessment of vision, physical and cognitive capacity required for MMD use
- On-device assessment to confirm capacity to operate the device

Suitable for MMD use

Device recommendations: the OT

- Identifies suitable devices based on assessment
- Arranges trial of preferred device in conjunction with supplier
- Advises regarding funding and submits application if applicable

User education & training
OT provides comprehensive education and training.

Health professional communication
OT communicates assessment outcome to GP, other relevant health professionals and funding bodies.

Monitoring & review
OT recommends monitoring and review based on the client's needs and stability of medical conditions.

Unsuitable for MMD use

Client/family communication
OT discusses alternative mobility options

Health professional communication
OT communicates assessment outcome to GP and other relevant health professionals, including recommendations for monitoring. Alternative mobility options discussed if appropriate.

Pre Assessment Medical Information

Medical Information Form Powered Mobility Assessment			
CLIENT INFORMATION			
Name:		DOB:	
Address:			
Contact person:		Phone:	
<p>In your opinion, does this patient have any problems in the following areas that would impede their ability to drive a powered mobility device e.g. scooter, powered/electric wheelchair (Mark with an X):</p>			
Medical Queries	No	Yes	If yes, please give further details
Impaired vision			
Wears Prescription glasses			
Has the vision been tested in the past two years			
Cognitive impairment			
Alcohol/ Solvent Abuse			
History of Epilepsy or Seizures			If so, when was the last seizure? Details of any interventions
Is the service user medically stable to drive a powered mobility device?			
Are there any side effects from medication e.g. drowsiness, impaired concentration, e.g.			
Hearing difficulties			
<p>From a medical point of view, in your opinion is this person a suitable candidate for a powered mobility assessment (mark with an X): Yes No</p>			
G.P INFORMATION			
GP Name:		Qualifications:	
GP Signature:		Phone:	

it is strongly advised to seek medical clearance for PMD usage from the client's medical practitioner. This step is critical to confirm the client's suitability for PMD use and to rule out any underlying medical conditions that might pose safety concerns:

Vision impairment



Side effect of Medications



History of substance abuse



Unstable Epilepsy



Hearing impairment



Cognitive impairment

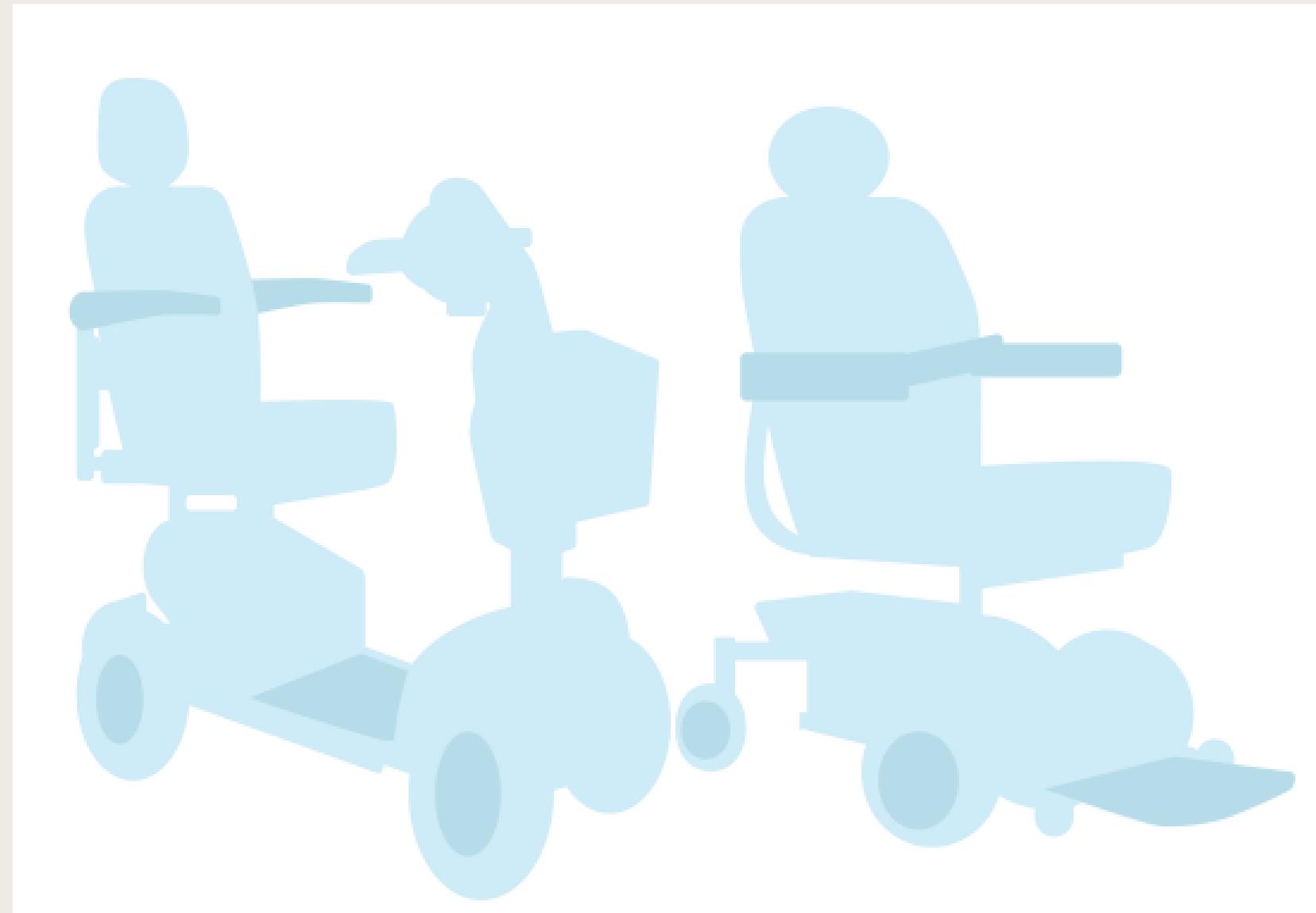


The PoMoDATT

The Powered Mobility Device Assessment Training Tool (PoMoDATT) is a standardised assessment and training tool designed for occupational therapists.

It provides guidance for conducting a clinical assessment covering cognitive, physical, sensory and psychosocial domains.

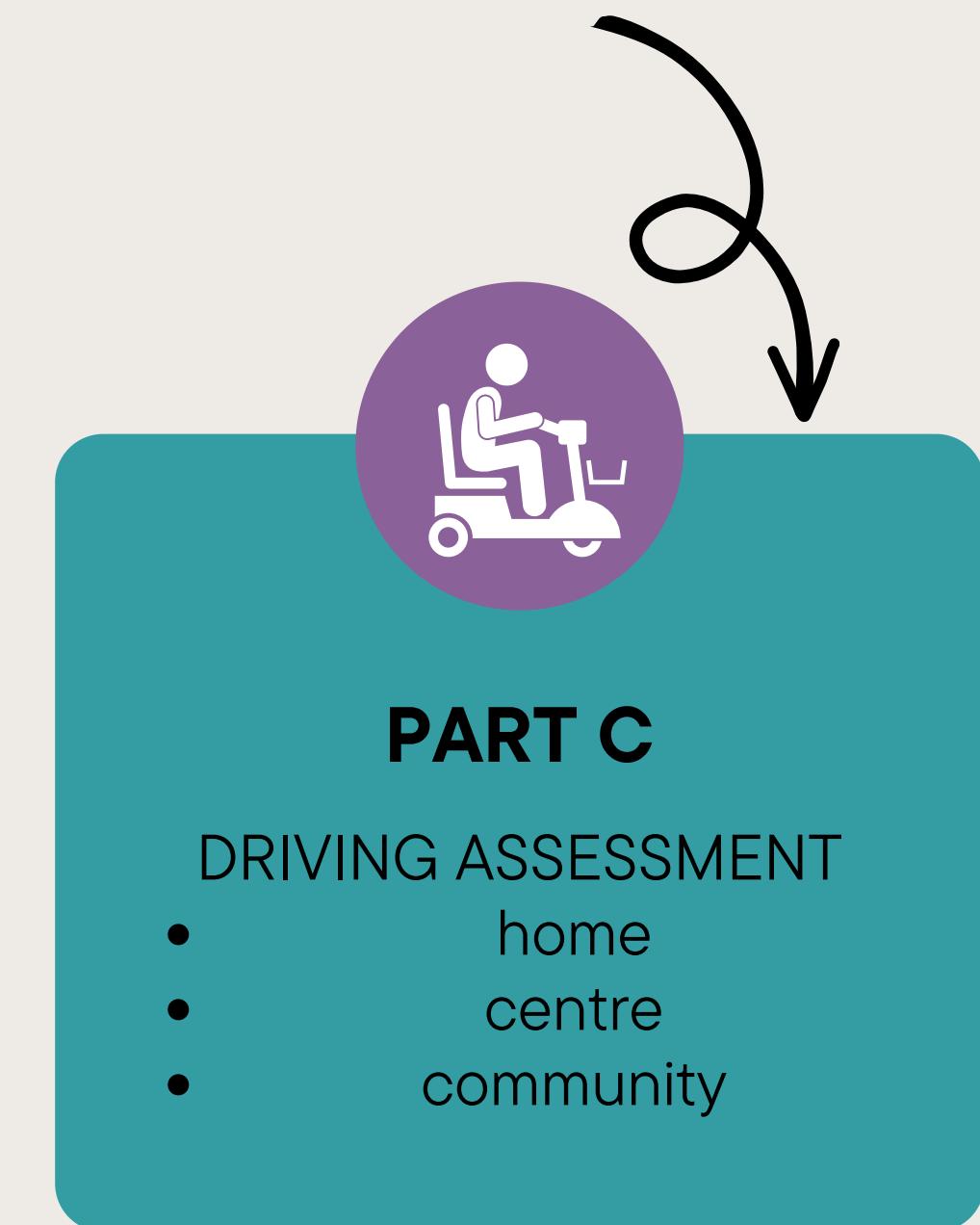
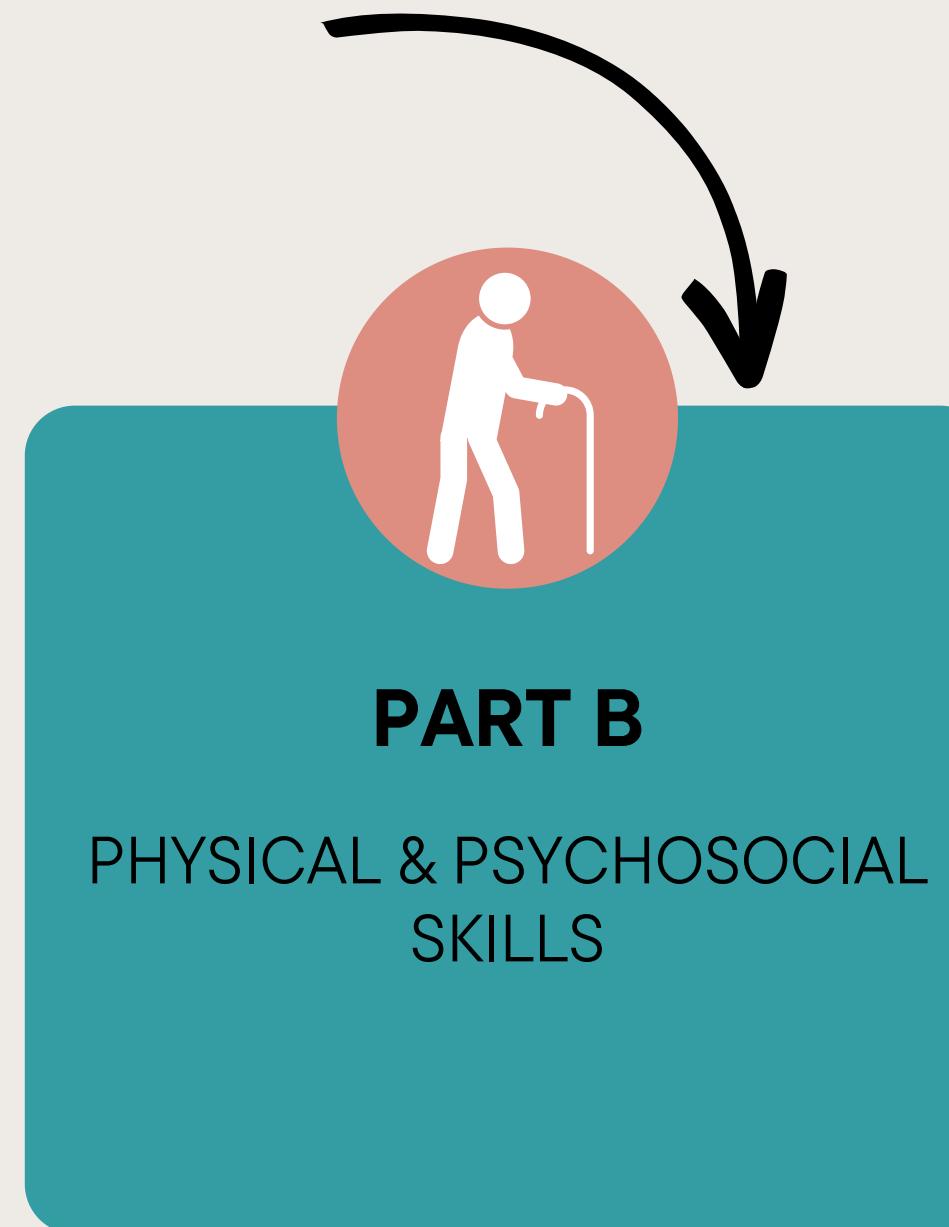
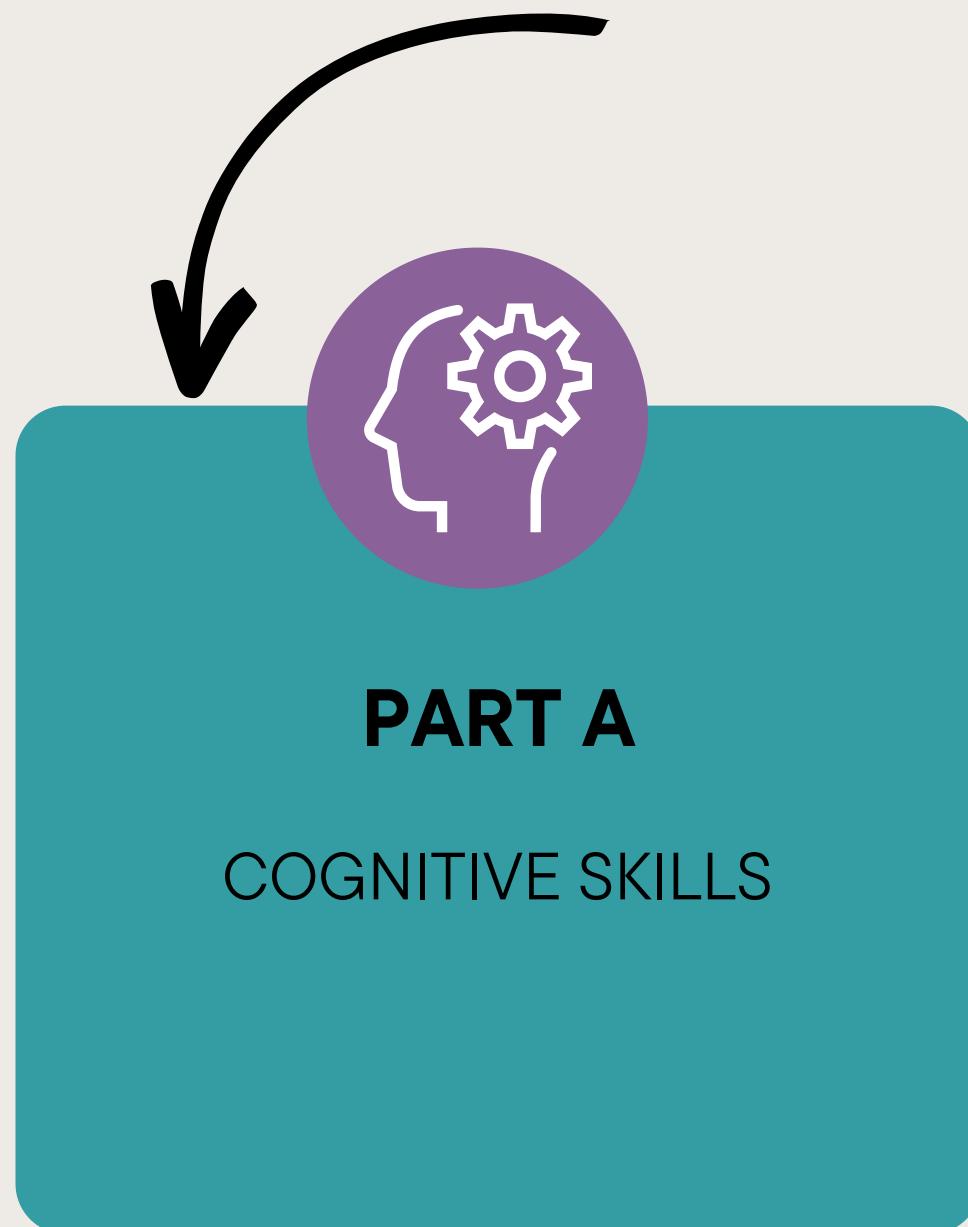
Operating skill and performance are assessed up to three times, enabling assessment in relevant environments (clinical environment, home, community).



Authors: Kathryn Townsend & Carolyn Unsworth

Date: 2016 **Cost:** Free **Available from:** pomodatt.com

PMD clinical assessment



Part A- Cognitive Assessment

- Choose a quiet environment
- The suggested standardised assessment is the MOCA, however Training & Certification is mandatory for anyone administering this test (RUDAS can be used as an alternative)
- Problem solving scenarios related to PMD use
- The underlying question for the occupational therapist throughout the cognitive screen should be, *“Is the client’s cognitive functioning appropriate/adequate for PMD use?”*



Assessing functional cognition is necessary to identify cognitive impairments that challenge a patient’s ability to accomplish real-world tasks. OTs specialise in identifying performance-based cognitive impairments, which range from subtle to the more obvious.

Yes

No

**Proceed to
Part B- Physical &
Psychosocial Ax**

**Consider ceasing
assessment**

Part B- Physical & Psychosocial Skills Assessment

- Medical Conditions
- Medications
- UL and LL function
- Reaction times
- Pressure care needs
- Trunk & neck function
- Balance
- Communication
- VisionEndurance

The underlying question for the occupational therapist throughout the pre-driving physical/psychosocial screen should be, *“Is the client’s physical or psychosocial functioning appropriate/adequate for PMD use?”*



Physical impairments in the upper or lower limbs, as well as issues with balance, can significantly affect a client’s posture. It may be more appropriate to consider a PWC as a suitable PMD if they require customised controls, specialised seating, or pressure care solutions.



Yes



No

**Proceed to
Part C- Driving test**

**Consider ceasing
assessment**

Part C- Driving Assessment

The assessment has been graded so that basic driving skills and behaviours are developed before focusing on driving tasks. It includes:

1. PMD Use Skills and Behaviours
2. PMD Use Tasks

The OT should consider the features of the device chosen/recommended for the client when answering these questions. A negative answer to any of the questions should prompt further consideration about the most appropriate device for the client.



Is the client able to sit with stability and reach the controls?
Is the client able to manipulate the controls?

Is the client positioned optimally in the PMD?

Is the client's sitting tolerance adequate for assessment & intended uses?

PMD selection





PMD Selection

Collaborate with AT suppliers!

- Purpose of PMD use eg. client goals
- Location (indoor, outdoor)
- Distances
- Activity/ tasks
- Storage
- Manual handling / carers
- Transportation methods

Trials & Outcomes

- Consider client's own driving history
- Assess impact of fatigue on pain, problem solving
- Start in safe/ quiet areas
- Choice of Home vs Showroom environment
- Consider a hire phase before purchase
- Consider Safety add-ons eg Attendant Controls , Scooter Stopper



PWC Features

Usually operated using a joystick.
small turning circle, which makes them suitable for indoor use and use on most public transport.



Can be customised to meet the user's individual needs

Mid wheel, front wheel or rear wheel drive will influence the turning circle and the way the device handles obstacles and inclines

Speed can also be controlled by altering the finger pressure on the joystick. reduce time wasters

Scooter Types

3 wheel scooters



generally have more legroom and may be easier to steer for people who have reduced upper body strength.
Less stable

4 wheel scooters



a larger turning circle, however they are more stable on uneven surfaces.
Ideal for travelling longer distances.

Travel/portable scooters



designed to be disassembled so that they can be transported in a car.
components can be heavy can generally carry less weight



Prescription & final Recommendations

- The final page of the PoMoDATT records the driving assessment summary, giving an overall driving performance score from zero to 104.
- This score alone doesn't determine safe, independent PMD use. Occupational therapists use clinical reasoning to interpret the score.
- Score ranges can assist in determining whether a client is
 - Safe for independent PMD use
 - Needs additional training
 - Requires supervised use
- The summary should include recommendations like
 - PMD provision
 - Funding applications
 - Supervised use onlyalong with documented areas needing additional training and an intervention plan.

Training & Capacity Building Sessions

- 1. Basic PMD Handling Skills
- 2. Navigating Complex Environments
- 3. Outdoor Terrain Training
- 4. Public Transportation Access
- 5. Community Mobility
- 6. Emergency Procedures
- 7. Maintenance and Troubleshooting
- 8. Community Interaction Skills
- 9. Emergency Response Drills



Training Environments

- 1.Client's Home
- 2.Community Parks
- 3.Shopping Malls
- 4.Residential Neighbourhoods
- 5.Public Transport
- 6.Outdoor Trails
- 7.Traffic Safety Courses
- 8.Indoor Facilities
- 9.Parking Lots
- 10.Community Events



Image- Pride Mobility

NDIS Funding Requests



Mid Cost Letter

If PMD is less than \$15 000 & client does not have an AT budget for PMD

➢ Mid Cost Letter is required to summarise:

- PMD Assessment findings
- Trial of assistive technology solutions
- Assistive Technology Trial Outcomes
- Assistive Technology Risks Identified
- Environmental Considerations
- ReasonNecessary Considerations



Tax Invoice

If a PMD has been included in the participants AT budget

➢ Tax Invoice can be submitted to the NDIA (if Agency managed), or the Plan Manager (if plan managed) or processed by the participant if Self Managed.

Aged Care Reports

HCP funding

SAMPLE

INCLUSIVE OT

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OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SUMMARY REPORT
POWERED MOBILITY / SCOOTER ASSESSMENT

CLIENT INFORMATION		
Name:	DOB:	
Address:		
Contact person:	Phone:	
ASSESSOR INFORMATION		
OT Name:	Qualifications:	Occupational Therapy
Phone:	Email:	
Date of Assessment:	Date of Report:	
ASSESSMENT INFORMATION		
<p>Mr John Smith (referred to as 'John' for the remainder of the report) was referred to Inclusive OT by (XXXX) on (XXX) for the purpose of a powered mobility device / scooter assessment. A home visit was completed on (XXX) with John at the home address. An AT trial was completed on XXX with the client at XXX Showroom (XXX). An additional trial was completed on XXX with the client at his home environment. Present at both trials were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Smith John's wife XXX (OT) XXX (Novis Healthcare) <p>Inclusive OT reviewed the following documents, as part of the assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My Aged Care Support Plan, dated 26 October 2020 <p>Please note that a full functional and environmental assessment were not completed as the referral indicated a specific assessment of the client's capacity to operate a mobility scooter.</p>		
BACKGROUND		
<p>Possibility is now Accessible</p>		

MEDICAL HISTORY – John reported that he experiences: Parkinsonism, hypertension, osteoarthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, ~~CABG~~ pacemaker and peripheral vascular disease (right leg stent). John reported that he also experiences high cholesterol, cataracts and glaucoma.

SOCIAL SITUATION – John is a ~~XX year old~~ male. John lives in a privately owned double storey duplex home with his wife for the past 19 years. They have two daughters (living in ~~XX~~). John's children do not visit often due to their own personal life and work commitments. Currently, both John and his wife receive level 2 - Home Care Package (HCP) for assistance with shopping, transport and cleaning (4 hours/week).

ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES

The Powered Mobility Device Assessment Training Tool (PoMoDATT SCREEN) – was used as part of this PMD/scooter assessment. The PoMoDATT is a standardised assessment used by occupational therapists to determine a person's competence to drive a PMD, such as a scooter or powered wheelchair, and also to provide guided training so users can improve their driving ability.

Part A, B and C of the PoMoDATT have been completed and are attached. Significant findings are listed below:

COGNITIVE SKILLS –

- Rowland Universal Dementia Assessment Scale (RUDAS): 28/30, indicating nil cognitive impairment. John had difficulties correctly recalling one of the items for 'Memory Recall'. The RUDAS was preferred over the MoCA as John is from a non-English speaking background (NESB). Furthermore, John was able to answer problem solving scenarios appropriately from the PoMoDATT assessment. Given John's past experience with driving a motor vehicle and mobility scooter, John demonstrated an appropriate level of understanding and knowledge in regards to road rules and safety.

UPPER LIMB SKILLS – John was observed utilising his upper limbs to write and complete written/drawing aspects of the RUDAS with nil issues.

LOWER LIMB SKILLS – John is able to mobilise and complete transfers independently within his home environment using his walking stick with nil issues.

MOBILITY / TRANSFERS – John was observed mobilising independently within his home environment and the community with his walking stick with nil issues. He was observed to be stable throughout. However, it is noted that John reportedly experiences fatigue and weakness in his lower limbs when mobilising long distances. John reported that he is able to mobilise ~300-400 metres before experiencing the symptoms mentioned above. John was observed independently completing transfers from his chair and the car using his walking stick for support, nil concerns.

PRESSURE CARE NEEDS – Nil, John is able to reposition himself independently.

NECK/TRUNK FUNCTION – John was observed scanning left to right with nil issues or pain associated with neck/trunk.

VISION – John utilises glasses for reading as well as for far away use. John reported that he had cataract surgery in the past. John is able to read signs from afar with nil issues when wearing glasses.

ACCESS & STORAGE FOR SCOOTER – There is adequate circulation space to store the scooter and charge the scooter using an extension cord. Furthermore, the garage door is electrically operated and has levelled access. John was observed independently operating the garage door system with nil issues.

OT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

CURRENT SITUATION	RECOMMENDATIONS & RATIONALE
GOAL 1: To be able to access the home environment (backyard) and community independently and engage in activities of daily living inclusive of grocery shopping, paying bills and spending time outdoors.	John is unable to mobilise within the community for prolonged periods of time due to pain, fatigue and weakness in his lower limbs. He requires frequent seated rests when mobilising for long distances. Currently, John reported that he is only able to tolerate ~300-400m of walking with his walking stick before experiencing the symptoms mentioned above.
	John is a suitable candidate to proceed with PMD trials as he is able to answer problem solving scenarios appropriately in relation to PMD use and is able to independently mobilise (short distances) and complete transfers using his walking stick with nil issues. John would benefit from trialling a PWC/mobility scooter within his home environment/natural terrain to improve his independence with community access and his participation in the wider community.
	A PWC/scooter trial took place at ILS showroom in Lane Cove, NSW on the 22/07/2023 with OT. The following AT was trialled:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drive Medical/Scoot Sport Quattro Mobility Scooter 
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pride S19 Quest Deluxe Folding Mobility Travel Scooter



Travel Lite Electric Folding Power Chair (16-inch 12-inch wheels)



Drive Medical/Scoot Sport Quattro Mobility Scooter

John reported nil issues with comfort for all scooter/PWC trialled within the ILS showroom. For all scooter/PWC trialled, John was observed independently transferring on/off and turning the power on/off safely. John was also observed independently driving in a straight line and ~~maneuvering~~ ~~without~~ appropriately avoiding other people/equipment within the showrooms. However, John was unable to decide whether he would make better use of a mobility scooter over a PWC. John advised that he would like more time to discuss with his wife as to which of these options will be more practical for his current needs and lifestyle. OT provided education to John and his wife regarding the recommended use/practicality for both mobility scooters and PWCs whilst factoring in the environment and activities they are intended for.

It is recommended that John trials the mobility scooter/PWC within his home environment and local community to ensure that the mobility scooter will suit his daily needs and environment. John and his wife advised that they will contact OT once they have decided on their preference of AT to organise a home trial.

SAMPLE

Summary for Client File

/ Copy to GP

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY POWERED MOBILITY / SCOOTER PRESCRIPTION SUMMARY																																		
CLIENT INFORMATION <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Name:</td> <td></td> <td>DOB:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Address:</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contact person:</td> <td></td> <td>Phone:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Name:		DOB:		Address:				Contact person:		Phone:																					
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Vision																																	
Physical capacity Cognitive capacity (including behaviour, learning ability)																																		
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This report is based on the client's presentation on the dates of the assessment, trials and training sessions mentioned above. The recommendations have considered the cognitive, functional, psychological and physical capacity, including their current mobility and social participation goals. The assessing occupational therapist reserves the right to change any part of this report should new medical, physical, functional, psychological, or vocational evidence become available. The contents of this report are true to the best of my knowledge.																																		
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Video: PMD Tips for Clients



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ultSHLZy0A>

Free Resources for Clients



Motorised Mobility Devices
Fact Sheet 1

Is a motorised mobility device right for you?

Road Safety Victoria (Department of Transport) has produced a series of fact sheets to support safe use of motorised scooters and powered wheelchairs in our community. This fact sheet helps you to decide whether you are suited to and capable of using such a device. It includes a checklist, which we suggest you complete and share with your health professional, your family and carer(s).

In this resource, the term 'motorised mobility device' includes both mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs, unless they are mentioned separately.

Are there rules around who may use a motorised mobility device?

Yes - you can only use a motorised mobility device if you have a need to use it. That is, if you have difficulty walking, have a disability or are injured. Under the Road Rules and the Road Safety Act 1986, anyone who does not have such a disability is not permitted to use these devices on a footpath or road. Motorised mobility devices are designed to carry only one person.

Motorised mobility scooter or wheelchair?

Motorised mobility scooters are good for people who can walk short distances. If you are not able to walk, a powered wheelchair is likely to be a better choice for you. Motorised mobility scooters are generally designed for use outdoors and for travel on footpaths. They are generally longer than powered wheelchairs and require more space to turn around a corner or do a 'U' turn, so they may be harder to manoeuvre indoors. For more information about choosing the right device, see Fact sheet 2 – Choosing a motorised mobility device.



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Motorised Mobility Devices
Fact Sheet 4

Safe use of your motorised mobility device

What are the safety risks?

It is estimated that more than 1,000 people are admitted to hospital in Australia each year as a result of injuries associated with mobility scooters (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019).¹ Almost all injuries are to scooter users themselves and these result from: the scooter tipping over; a collision with a stationary object; the user tripping or falling from the scooter or a collision with a moving object. Pedestrians and other road users such as cyclists can also be injured. A collision with a heavy moving device such as a mobility scooter can cause serious injury and falls, even at relatively low speeds.

One of the most important things you need to do to protect your safety and that of others is to learn how to use your device properly.

This means getting thorough hands-on training from an occupational therapist who will work with your supplier to help you understand how to use your device in and around your local environment.

Training will cover:

- basic operations such as turning and reversing
- how to manage the device in different circumstances and on different terrains
- how to crossroads safely including how to negotiate kerbs
- how to avoid tipping over while using your device
- how to charge and store your device, and much more.

1. AIHW. Hollis K, Tread A and Pether S (2019). Mobility scooter related injuries and deaths. Injury research and statistics series no. 121. Canberra, AIHW.



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Downloadable Factsheets

Question



Time



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Thank You



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