

DRIVERS MEDICAL REPORT

Presenters: Dennis Bell - Bendigo Tramway Superintendent.
Mrs Judy Mott - Occupational Therapist.
Driver Rehabilitation Program
Vic. Roads Registration 88-8-1.
Ms Heather Newnham - Optometrist.

Session Chair: Dennis Bell

Session Secretary: Russell Jones

Dennis Bell: Bendigo Tramways Superintendent - Gave reasons for the need of a Drivers Medical Report. Explained how the current Medical Report evolved (based on VicRoads Medical report for bus drivers).

Mrs Judy Mott: Occupational Therapist -Explained how health and age effects our reaction time. Spoke on the Driver Rehabilitation Program.

Ms. Heather Newnham: Optometrist - Explained the importance of vision in regards to driving and problems and diseases effecting vision.

Refer to Appendix B for copy of Medical Certificate (pgs 127-128)

The following notes were provided by Session Secretary Russell Jones.

Dennis Bell: The Bendigo Trust

The Bendigo Trust originally required volunteers to undergo a medical examination and on the basis of this, classified applicants into appropriate possible occupations. It was then decided to tighten up the process with respect to drivers. Both the systems used by the Metropolitan Transit Authority and Perth suburban rail system was examined, but the method selected was the VicRoads report used for examination of bus and coach drivers, as modified by The Bendigo Trust in conjunction with a General Practitioner.

The second edition of this Bendigo Trust report is now in use, the major addition being a requirement for annual examinations between ages 60 and 70, with drivers being suspended from the age 70.

Mrs Judy Mott: Occupational Therapist

In 1987 Occupational therapists (O.T's) were enabled by legislation to make recommendations to VicRoads on a person's ability to drive a motor vehicle after serious illness or injury. This is primarily achieved by observation of a person's performance whilst driving a vehicle. The ageing process does degrade a person's ability to drive, but this can be compensated for by a number of factors:-

In cases where this is the case, due to ageing or illness/injury, it is the O.T's role to investigate and make recommendations to VicRoads as to what can be done to enable the person to continue to drive.

A person is evaluated through the medium of the VicRoads Driver Medical Report. This covers the following sections:

- * Vision - 6/12 in one eye is the minimum legal requirement to drive a private motor vehicle either aided or unaided by spectacles.
- * Hearing - no legal requirement but this can provide an important component of the overall assessment.
- * Communication - the ability available in both verbal and written form, to express information and events, which is particularly important in the case of an accident or incident.
- * Upper limb function
- * Lower limb function
- * Head/neck mobility
- * Balance - both static and dynamic
- * Mobility aids requirements - e.g. walking stick, frame, wheelchair etc.
- * Cognitive skills - information processing and decision making.

Mrs Heather Newnham - Optometrist

Visual standards for driving are based on four different visual functions.

- * Visual acuity - This is effectively the ability to distinguish detail. The minimum legal requirements are:-
 - Private vehicles - 6/12 in one eye
 - Bus and coach drivers - 6/12 in both eyes and 6/95 in binocular vision.
- * Binocular vision - This is the ability to determine the depth of vision based on the resolution of parallax through both eyes.
- * Peripheral vision - the minimum legal requirement for bus and coach drivers is 170 degrees. This can be affected by loss of vision through glaucoma or strokes. The issues that can affect the ability of a drivers in this area is double vision, which rules out driving, or a squint, which may not necessarily be the case, providing that the image provided by the good eye dominates or overrides the other image.
- * Colour blindness - there are two tests to determine the degree of colour blindness - the Ishihara test, which requires the test to differentiate numbers amongst coloured dots, is used to indicate if there is a problem. If four examples are failed, then the person is classed as colour blind. A more discriminating test is available which if passed, allows persons afflicted by this disability to drive motor vehicles, but not under current Public Transport Corporation policy, trams.

The major diseases affecting vision are:-

Cataracts - this is a loss of transparency in the vitreous material in the eye. This causes light scattering leading to a loss of contrast and problems with glare. The effect of this can be reduced during daylight hours by use of tinted glasses and/or sun visors. This can be improved by appropriate surgery.

Glaucoma - this is the loss of visual field as a result of optic nerve damage usually caused by excess pressure within the eye. It affects the periphery and leads to tunnel vision. It can be treated by a combination of medication and surgery. Sufferers should not drive at night.

Malculopathy - this is also a loss of visual field but affects the centre of the field. It results from actual damage and is not treatable, but laser surgery has shown some success in preventing further loss of visual field due to this condition. This condition is exacerbated by high glare/low contrast conditions. It leads to particular difficulties in operating at night or dawn/dusk conditions.

Diabetes - this disease causes loss of visual function as a result of reduced flow through blood vessels supplying the optic nerve and retina, leading to a loss of retinal function. This damage is permanent. The ageing process tends to gradual loss of visual function, commencing usually in the mid 40s. This degradation can be corrected to some degree with the use of glasses, but performance is lost in low light conditions, particularly with respect to recovery times in situations such as exposure to bright head lights at night.

However, each museum should treat each problem on a case by case basis, to assure the most appropriate outcome.

CONFIDENTIAL - (2nd edition 1994)

Bendigo Heritage Tours.
76 Violet Street, Bendigo, Victoria, 3550.

DRIVER'S MEDICAL REPORT
Telephone: (054) 438117. FAX: (054) 438341.

Patients to complete this section only (Please use BLOCK letters)

Surname/Family Name		Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss.	Licence Number:
First Name/Given Name	Second Name	Date of Birth / /	Consent of Patient I hereby consent to the forwarding, by the examining practitioner, of this report to Bendigo Heritage Tours and I understand that I shall be responsible for any medical expense incurred in connection with the compilation of this report. Patient's Signature:
Address:			

To be completed by Medical Practitioner

How long have you known the above named person?

How long have you been treating this person?

Have you any personal knowledge of their medical history? No Yes

History - Has he/she ever suffered from any of the following?

1a Epilepsy?
No Yes If yes, state what type:

Date of Last Attack

Are blood serum levels known? No Yes Is he/she seen regularly by a Neurologist? No Yes

Please detail Medication overleaf.

1b Blackouts, Fainting Attacks or Dizziness?
If yes, state which and whether they have been investigated.
No Yes

Date of Last Attack

2 (a) Diabetes Mellitus?
(b) Hypoglycaemic reactions?
If yes, to (a) or (b) state if hospitalization was necessary.
No Yes

Type of reaction - was consciousness impaired?

Cause of Reaction (if known)

Date of Last Attack

3 Heart disease or disorder?
No Yes If yes, give details.

4 Psychiatric disorder?
No Yes If Yes, was psychiatric treatment or hospitalization necessary? No Yes

Nature of Disorder.

Name of Hospital.

Admission date Discharge date

Please detail Medication overleaf.

5 Excessive use or abuse of alcohol or drugs?
No Yes If Yes, please give details.

6 Rheumatism or joint disorder?
No Yes If Yes, please give details.

7 Any other illness, including particulars of any accident or injury or any cognitive defects which could affect ability to drive an electric tram?
No Yes If Yes, please give details.

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EXAMINATION:

8 EYES.

Is an examination by an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist required?

No	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are corrective spectacles or contact lenses to be worn when driving?

No	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Colour vision

Passed	Failed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Visual acuity unaided	6	6
	L	R
Visual acuity aided	6	6
	L	R

Visual fields (confrontation test)

Diplopia or Strabismus

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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9 EARS:

Hearing

10 Clinical Data: (Include relevant findings on examination, e.g., B.P., E.C.G., E.E.G., etc.)

11 Final Diagnosis and Current Treatment (Include medication & any likely side-effects from the medication)

INFORMATION FOR DRIVERS:-

This Medical Report is current for a period of three years from the date here-on.

DRIVERS OVER SIXTY YEARS OF AGE:-

Drivers who have reached sixty years of age are required to have a **MEDICAL REPORT** completed on a twelve monthly basis until their seventieth birthday.

LOSS OF MOTOR VEHICLE LICENCE:-

Where a tram driver has lost his/her Motor Vehicle Licence (meaning has been excluded from driving a Motor Vehicle for a period of time), such a person will also be automatically excluded from driving a tram in a public place, for the same period of time.

12 Should any special conditions or restrictions apply?

No Yes If Yes, please give details.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
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13 Is he/she fit (from a medical point of view) to hold a Licence to drive an electric Tram where the Driver is required to assist incapacitated passengers into and out of the vehicle?

No	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14 Are future medical examinations necessary for assessment of his/her fitness to hold a driver's licence?

No Yes If Yes, how often?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
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COMMENTS: Doctor to post this Medical Report to the General Manager, Bendigo Heritage Tours, 76 Violet Street, Bendigo., 3550.

Doctor's Signature:

Date / /

Doctor's Name - BLOCK letters:

Address:

Qualifications

Telephone: