



## Older Road Users – Motorised Wheelchairs

Staying safe on the road is important for all drivers, however as we get older there are physical changes which can affect our driving skills.

The Road Safety Centre offers a free road safety session to older road users, anywhere in the State.

### Motorised wheelchairs

Motorised wheelchairs are also referred to as mobility scooters and gophers. Under the Australian Road Rules, a motorised wheelchair that is not capable of travelling at a speed greater than 10km/h and is used by a person who is unable to walk or has difficulty walking is treated as a pedestrian. Users of motorised wheelchairs must observe the same road rules applicable to all pedestrians, including:

- using the footpath or nature strip where one is available
- keeping to the far left or far right of a road where no footpath or nature strip is provided or is not practicable to use
- not travelling in bike lanes
- crossing a road at pedestrian lights and at traffic lights
- not causing a traffic hazard or obstruction.

A motorised wheelchair is exempt from the requirements of a driver's licence, registration and insurance when driven on a road by a person who reasonably requires the use of the vehicle because of some physical infirmity. However, exemption is subject to the following conditions:

- the vehicle is specifically designed and constructed (not merely adapted) for the transport of a person with some physical infirmity or disability
- it has seating for one person only
- is capable of short low speed journeys only
- has an unladen mass not exceeding 250 kilograms.

### Safety tips when using a motorised wheelchair

- plan a route that allows access to a footpath for the entire journey
- know where there are kerb ramps or driveways you can use for safe crossings
- take extra care when leaving the kerb to cross the road
- wait until the traffic has stopped before travelling onto a pedestrian crossing
- always be prepared to stop for pedestrians

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- watch for vehicles entering and leaving driveways
- avoid major roads
- if you are forced to use roads, travel on quieter streets
- attach a safety flag to your chair high enough above your head to be visible to others
- if possible, attach rear view mirrors to your chair
- if you must travel at night, use lights and reflectors to aid visibility, front and rear just like a bicycle
- if possible, check out a new route beforehand to make sure it is suitable for a motorised wheelchair.

The SA Police Road Safety Centre is a leader in road safety education, playing a vital role in reducing road trauma through enhancing the awareness, knowledge and skills of all road users through lifelong learning. For more information on our range of programs visit [www.police.sa.gov.au/road-safety](http://www.police.sa.gov.au/road-safety) or use the QR code below to take you straight to SAPOL's road safety page. To book a FREE road safety session email [SAPOL.RoadSafetySection@police.sa.gov.au](mailto:SAPOL.RoadSafetySection@police.sa.gov.au)

Page 2/2



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**THINK!**  
**ROAD SAFETY**



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