



Older road users – using motorised wheelchairs safely

Staying safe on the road matters for everyone. As we get older, changes in mobility can mean we rely on motorised wheelchairs - also called mobility scooters or gophers. Here's what you need to know to stay safe and confident.

What are the rules?

Under Australian Road Rules, if your motorised wheelchair:

- can't go faster than 10 km/h, and
- is used because you have difficulty walking or can't walk

then it's treated as a **pedestrian**. That means you follow the same rules as people on foot:

- use the footpath or nature strip when available
- if there's no footpath, keep to the far left or far right of the road
- don't travel in bike lanes
- cross at pedestrian lights or traffic lights
- never create a traffic hazard or block the road.

Do you need a licence or registration?

No! If you reasonably need the wheelchair because of a physical condition, you're exempt from licence, registration, and insurance requirements - provided:

- it's designed specifically for transporting someone with a disability (not just adapted)
- it seats one person only
- it's for short, low-speed trips
- it weighs no more than 250 kg (unladen).



Disclaimer: This publication contains only general guidelines and strategies for dealing with safety and security, and no guarantees or representations are made concerning their effectiveness. SA Police accept no responsibility for any injury or loss resulting from the application of these strategies.

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ROAD SAFETY



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Safety tips for motorised wheelchair users

- plan your route so you can stay on footpaths
- know where kerb ramps or driveways are for safe crossings
- take extra care when leaving the kerb
- wait until traffic stops before crossing
- be ready to stop for pedestrians
- watch for cars entering or leaving driveways
- avoid major roads - stick to quieter streets
- attach a safety flag high enough to be seen
- add rear-view mirrors if possible
- use lights and reflectors at night (front and rear, like a bike)
- check new routes ahead of time to make sure they're suitable.

For more tips and information, visit www.myllicence.sa.gov.au and [Moving-right-along-Obligations-opportunities-for-older-drivers.pdf](#)

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 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



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