



Memorandum:

To: Associations, Board Members and Zone Directors

From: Acting President/Vice-President

CC: Federation Office

Date: 19/04/2024

Subject: Driving Tests for Older Drivers – Urgent Feedback Required

For several years Grey Power has been advocating for older drivers who have been denied a renewal of their driving licence after completing a "memory test" by their GP. Most of the tests utilised are testing for early-stage dementia, rather than being a valid test for driving ability.

Those who are failed by their GP are often referred for an on-road safety test, or assessment by an Occupational Therapist which usually costs at least \$800. The on-road safety tests are affordable, but there are few locations where NZTA conduct the tests, meaning that people must travel to the centres and often drive in an unfamiliar area in a stressful situation. For those in rural areas the testing location may be 50+ km away.

Kathryn Ryan on Radio NZ Nine to Noon program wants to interview me on behalf of Grey Power on this issue. She wants to understand how common this is around the country and whether members are choosing to give up their licences rather than take these additional assessments.

We are looking to our members for feedback on this issue and would ask that this memo would be widely distributed as soon as possible.

We want to hear from our members by 28th of April if you, or your partner: -

- 1. Are aged 75 or older**
- 2. Have visited your GP in 2023 or 2024 for a Medical Certificate to renew your licence**
- 3. Were given a "memory" or cognitive test which you failed, and your licence renewal was declined by the doctor.**

Please email your answers to the attached questions, and any other comments you want to make about the process to National.vicepresident@greypower.co.nz as soon as possible please.

Your feedback will greatly strengthen the case we are making to have the system of senior driver assessment improved.

Many thanks

Kind regards

David Marshall

Acting President/National Vice President

National.vicepresident@greypower.co.nz

Questionnaire on GP Driving Test Assessment for Drivers 75 years or Older.

1. **When your last GP Driving Licence Assessment was conducted.** (2022,2023, or 2024)
2. **Your name & phone number** (Only if we need to follow up – details will remain confidential)
3. **Where you live** (name of town, city, rural area)
4. **What “memory” or cognitive test you were given** (– eg MoCA, SIMARD-MD, Mini-ACE, if you don't know just describe what you had to do)
5. **When you failed the medical assessment what options were you given by the GP?** (None, a restricted licence, an on-road safety test, or an appointment with an Occupational Therapist, other?)
6. **What happened next?**
 - a. **If you took an on-road safety test, how far away did you have to travel? Did you pass?**
 - b. **If you went to an Occupational Therapist what was the cost and how far did you have to travel? Did you pass?**
 - c. **If you decided not to do an on-road safety test or go to an Occupational Therapist did you just give up your licence?**
7. **How did you feel about the whole process?**
8. **How do you think the process for assessing driving ability be improved?**