Potential to Drive Assessment

What is it?

The Potential to Drive Program was developed as a tool to assess whether a young person with a disability is ready for driving. It is specifically tailored for learner and pre-learner drivers with autism, ADHD, intellectual disability, or any other diagnoses that may cause executive dysfunction.

How will it run?

This assessment is conducted over 3-4 sessions in a 1:1 setting to provide the young person with a safe and comfortable environment (usually at home) that is free from distraction.

Who is it for?

Any young person between the ages of 15 - 25 with a disability and has a goal of learning to drive. A learner's licence is not required to participate in this program.

What is involved?

The assessment aims to assess the following in a home or clinic setting:

- Physical function - balance, movement, coordination, reflexes.
- Visual function - visual acuity, eye tracking, visual-motor integration.
- Cognitive function - processing speed, memory, attention, planning, and problem solving.
- Road law knowledge - awareness of the driving environment, identifying critical road items, lane positioning, intersection rules/diagrams, and visual traffic scenarios.

And a motor vehicle setting:

- Passenger Activities - this involves the learner or pre-learner to sit in the front passenger seat with the OT Driving Assessor operating the vehicle (parents are welcome to sit in the rear seat). The purpose of this component is to allow the tasks of driving to be broken down without placing any pressure or anxiety on them.

What are the possible outcomes?

1. The young person has a *potential to drive* and can participate in an on-road driving assessment with the OTDA and a specialised driving instructor.
2. Further work is required to build driving skills. This can be conducted in their own time or during any additional OT sessions.
3. The young person does not have *potential to drive* at this time and it is recommended they try again in the future if they wish.

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