



# Scooter Safe



Module 1

## RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES



*The People for People over 50*

NRMA-ACT Road Safety Trust

# Objectives

- To understand your legal rights and responsibilities,
- To learn the skills and abilities for safe motorised wheelchair use.



Module 1.2

# AUSTRALIAN ROAD RULES

Motorised wheelchair users have the  
legal rights of a pedestrian.



**Scooter Safe**

Module 1.3

# Legal Responsibilities

## Licence

- You do not need a licence to use a motorised wheelchair.
- If the motorised wheelchair cannot travel over 10km/hr you are defined as a pedestrian under the road rules.
- You are responsible for handling the motorised wheelchair in a safe manner.



Module 1.4

# Registration

- You do not need to register your motorised wheelchair ...
- If the motorised wheelchair cannot travel over 10 km/hr and is used solely for the conveyance of an “invalid”.



Module 1.5

# Insurance

Two components are recommended:

- property cover - theft or damage
- liability cover - damage done by you to others and their property
- Nominal Defendant Scheme provides CTP cover only in road related areas in NSW/ACT.



Module 1.6

# Insurance Cover Available

- Home Contents Insurance can provide
  - liability cover ( up to \$10m)
  - property cover for loss or damage
- your motorised wheelchair will need to be noted as a specified portable valuable
- Note: not all insurance companies offer this type of cover.



**Scooter Safe**

Module 1.7

# Questions to Ask your Insurer

- Will you cover my motorised wheelchair for loss or damage?
- Will you cover me for damage my motorised wheelchair may cause others, including personal and property damage?
- Does the cover extend outside the home and within Australia?
- Any exemptions?



Module 1.8



# Motorised Wheelchair Selection

- If indoor use only, select a small three-wheeled motorised wheelchair.
- If outdoor use only, a four-wheeled motorised wheelchair may be better.
- Note: a larger motorised wheelchair may not fit in a taxi or bus and you may have difficulty with access to toilets and lifts.



Module 1.9

# Driver Skills & Abilities

## TESTING

- As you do not need a licence there is no formal test of your skill as a user.
- There are no formal bodies who can assess your driving skills.
- Occupational Therapists or your GP may be able to assist in the assessment of the essential basic abilities.



Module 1.10

# Essential Abilities

- Co-ordination and strength
- Physical balance and endurance
- Vision
- Perception
- Thought processes and memory
- Feelings and judgement



**Scooter Safe**

Module 1.11

© Copyright 2002 C Marcar. Developed for NRMA - ACT Road Safety Trust.

# Co-Ordination and Strength

- Ability to manipulate controls eg turn key, adjust dials, use accelerator.
- Ability to steer and turn in tight corners.
- Ability to turn your head to look to the side or behind if reversing.



Module 1.12

# Physical Balance & Endurance

- Ability to maintain balance when travelling over rough or uneven ground.
- Ability to adjust body position when travelling up or down steep gradients or kerb ramps.
- Ability to be seated for extended periods.
- Ability to stand or walk short distances.



**Scooter Safe**

Module 1.13

# Vision

- Ability to notice and move around obstacles in field of vision.
- Ability to notice moving objects and avoid collisions.
- Ability to notice objects in the periphery of your vision eg seeing motor vehicles or pedestrians around you.



# Perception

- Ability to judge distances.

## Thought Process & Memory

- Ability to remember safety procedures.
- Ability to concentrate for lengthy periods.
- Ability to react quickly for stopping or turning.



**Scooter Safe**

Module 1.15

# Feelings & Judgement

- Ability to stay calm in difficult situations.
- Ability to be patient with other people.
- Ability to make good judgements in protecting your safety and the safety of others.



Module 1.16