

+ Queensland Government Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grant Scheme Guidelines

1. About the program

The objective of the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grant Scheme is to modernise and reduce the average age the operational fleet of *wheelchair accessible taxis* in Queensland. This will be achieved by providing *eligible licence holders* with a grant to offset the cost of acquiring a *new wheelchair accessible taxi*.

The final closing date of the scheme will be 30 June 2024.

2. Available assistance

2.1 Assistance available under the scheme is 50 per cent of the cost of acquiring a *new wheelchair accessible taxi* to a maximum amount of \$45,000.

2.2 Grants are available to assist with the following costs:

- a) purchase of a *new wheelchair accessible taxi*;
- b) purchase and installation of *eligible modifications*, including the reconfiguration of seating for that vehicle. All *eligible modifications* need to be authorised by an *Approved Person Engineer* and a *certificate of modification* is to be provided.

2.3 Only one grant is available per taxi service licence.

3. Eligibility criteria

3.1 To apply for assistance, you must be:

- a) the holder or lessee of a *taxi service licence*;
- b) registered for GST; and
- c) applying to replace or introduce a vehicle which meets the requirements under one of the following classes with a *new wheelchair accessible taxi*:

Class 1 - a *wheelchair accessible taxi* which is at least 8 years of age;

Class 2 - a *wheelchair accessible taxi* which:

- i. is at least 6 years of age;
- ii. has an odometer that shows the taxi has been driven at least 800,000km; and

- iii. a qualified mechanic, panel beater or other relevant tradesperson has advised the taxi requires repairs that would cost an estimated \$10,000 (excluding GST) or more to continue its roadworthiness.

Class 3 - a *wheelchair accessible taxi* of any age, which has been written-off by an *accredited insurance adviser*.

Class 4 - a *conventional taxi vehicle* where the corresponding *taxi service licence* has, or will be, amended to include a *wheelchair accessible taxi condition* that allows the *new wheelchair accessible taxi* to be operated in an *identified eligible area*.

3.2 You may be eligible for assistance if you have already acquired a *new wheelchair accessible taxi*, or if you intend to acquire a *new wheelchair accessible taxi*.

- a) If you have already acquired a *new wheelchair accessible taxi*, you are required to demonstrate –
 - i. that *eligible modifications* have been made to that vehicle (All eligible modifications need to be authorised by an *Approved Person Engineer* and a *certificate of modification* is to be provided);
 - ii. the *new wheelchair accessible taxi* is the vehicle stated on your *taxi service licence*;
 - iii. that the vehicle stated in your *taxi service licence* immediately before the *new wheelchair accessible taxi*, met the requirements under one of the Classes in Section 3;
 - iv. payment, in full, for the cost of acquiring the *new wheelchair accessible taxi*; and
 - v. the *new wheelchair accessible taxi* began providing a taxi service on or after 1 July 2019.
- b) If you intend to acquire a *new wheelchair accessible taxi*, you are required to demonstrate –
 - i. that the vehicle stated on your *taxi service licence* meets the requirements under one of the Classes in Section 3;
 - ii. you intend to apply to change the vehicle stated on your licence to be the *new wheelchair accessible taxi*;
 - iii. you have not paid, in full, the cost of the vehicle or its *eligible modifications*; and
 - iv. you are able to pay at least 50 per cent of the cost of acquiring the *new wheelchair accessible taxi*.

4. Ineligible modifications

4.1 Assistance under this Scheme is not available for:

- a) removing any equipment from an existing *wheelchair accessible taxi* and installing it in the *new wheelchair accessible taxi*;
- b) the costs of purchasing and installing signs and other items including for example:
 - i. despatch systems;
 - ii. EFTPOS systems;
 - iii. security cameras; and
 - iv. taxi meters.
- c) the ongoing maintenance, repair or replacement of the *new wheelchair accessible taxi*; and

- d) costs associated with applying to amend a taxi service licence to state the new taxi in the licence or add a *wheelchair accessible taxi condition*.

5. How to apply

- 5.1 To apply for a grant, complete an application form available from QRIDA's website.
- 5.2 Submit your application and supporting documents by post, email or fax.
- 5.3 QRIDA may request further information to help assess your application.
- 5.4 Penalties apply for providing false and misleading information in accordance with the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

6. Application assessment

- 6.1 Applications will be assessed on a competitive basis for the available funding amount.
- 6.2 Priority will be given to applications in decreasing order from Class 1 to Class 4, with the oldest vehicles given precedence within each Class.

7. Funding arrangements

- 7.1 If your application is successful, you will receive a letter of offer from QRIDA.
- 7.2 Payments will be made upon provision of evidence as agreed with QRIDA as the new *wheelchair accessible taxi* is purchased and modified.

8. Fraudulent Applications

- 8.1 QRIDA takes fraud and corruption seriously. Suspected fraud will be assessed and investigated, which may require involvement of external parties such as Queensland Police Service (QPS) or Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).
- 8.2 By signing the application form, you acknowledge the information provided in the application form is true and accurate.
- 8.3 The provision of false and misleading information and documents is an offence and penalties may be applied under the Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994.
- 8.4 QRIDA responds to fraud by:
 - a) inquiries and review of applications and funding that are suspicious
 - b) referral to law enforcement agencies such as QPS or CCC of suspected fraud
 - c) pursue the recovery of funds provided under a fraudulent application.

9. Terms and conditions

- 9.1 You are required to take reasonable steps to achieve value for money in acquiring the *new wheelchair accessible taxi*.
- 9.2 You are required to start providing taxi services using your *new wheelchair accessible taxi* within three months after receiving a grant under the scheme. (A longer period may be approved by QRIDA if required).
- 9.3 If you do not use the *new wheelchair accessible taxi* to provide a taxi service for a period of at least three years, you will be required to repay assistance received on a pro-rata basis. You must provide the taxi service under a taxi service licence with a wheelchair accessible taxi condition that you either own or lease.

9.4 For vehicles approved under Class 4, if you do not use the new wheelchair accessible taxi under the current licence for a period of at least three years, you will be required to repay assistance received on a pro-rata basis.

10. More information

For more information on the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grant Scheme contact QRIDA on **Freecall 1800 623 946** or email wats@qrida.qld.gov.au

11. Definitions

Accredited insurance adviser means a suitably qualified and experienced individual who, acting on behalf of the applicable insurer, is accredited to determine that the cost of vehicle repairs is uneconomical.

Approved Person Engineer means a person accredited under Department of Transport and Main Road's Approved Person Scheme who:

- a) holds the Level – 1 or #1 combination of formal qualification and industry experience as mentioned in the AP Business Rules here; and
- b) holds a LK2 engineering code.

Certificate of modification means –

- a) a certificate of modification under the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2010*; or
- b) a certificate given under a law of the Commonwealth or another State that provides for approving the modification of vehicles.

Conventional Taxi Vehicle means a taxi as defined in Schedule 3 of the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*, other than a *wheelchair accessible taxi* or a *new wheelchair accessible taxi*.

Eligible modifications for a motor vehicle, is the installation of a wheelchair-accessibility device –

- a) the purpose of converting the vehicle to a wheelchair accessible taxi; and
- b) for which a certificate of modification has been given.

Identified eligible areas means any of the following taxi service areas under the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994* –

- Brisbane;
- Bundaberg;
- Cairns;
- Gold Coast;
- Hervey Bay;
- Ipswich;
- Mackay;
- Maryborough;
- Redcliffe;
- Rockhampton;
- Sunshine Coast;
- Toowoomba;
- Townsville Thuringowa.

New wheelchair accessible taxi means a motor vehicle that -

- a) at the time of purchase, had not been registered in Australia or another country and was otherwise a new vehicle under the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* (Cwlth); and
- b) has not already been replaced under the scheme;

- c) is the motor vehicle stated in the *taxi service licence*;
- d) has been approved by the chief executive (transport) as a vehicle that may be used to provide a taxi service to carry a wheelchair and the occupant of the wheelchair; and
- e) has the capacity to accommodate at least 1 wheelchair and the occupant of the wheelchair.

Taxi service licence see the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*, Schedule 3.

Wheelchair accessibility device, for a motor vehicle, means a device designed to -

- a) load a wheelchair into the vehicle; or
- b) secure a wheelchair in the vehicle; or
- c) safely restrain an occupant of a wheelchair while the wheelchair is in the vehicle.

Wheelchair accessible taxi condition, for a taxi service licence, means a condition of the licence that requires -

- a) the motor vehicle stated in the licence to be a wheelchair accessible taxi; and
- b) a taxi service provided under the licence to be provided using a wheelchair accessible taxi.

Written-off vehicle see the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2010*, schedule 8.