

+ 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 closing date of the scheme will be 30 June 2025.

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 \$55,000.

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 for a holder or lessee of a *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 acquire a new wheelchair accessible taxi which meets the requirements under one of the following classes:

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* stated in the *taxi service licence* for an *eligible taxi service area* and the holder or lessee has asked, or intended to ask the Department of Transport and Main Roads, to:

- i. change the vehicle stated in the licence to be a *new wheelchair accessible taxi* acquired by the holder or lessee; and
- include a wheelchair accessible taxi condition for the licence.

3.2 A Class 1 and Class 2 *wheelchair accessible taxi* is not eligible for assistance under the Scheme if assistance has previously been granted to replace the taxi.

3.3 You are not eligible for assistance if you have previously received assistance under the Scheme to acquire a new wheelchair accessible taxi, unless the new wheelchair accessible taxi is a *written-off vehicle*.

3.4 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, accompanied by the relevant documentation stated on the application form.
- 5.2 Application forms and related information can be accessed at <https://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/program/wheelchair-accessible-taxi-grant-scheme>
- 5.3 Submit your application and supporting documents by post, email or fax.
- 5.4 QRIDA may request further information to help assess your application.
- 5.5 QRIDA will assess applications in the order they are received.
- 5.6 Penalties apply for providing false and misleading information in accordance with the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.

6. Terms and conditions

- 6.1 You are required to take reasonable steps to achieve value for money in acquiring the *new wheelchair accessible taxi*.
- 6.2 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).
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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.

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. Conflict of Interest

- 8.1 A conflict of interest may arise due to a business dealing with QRIDA, if your private interests conflict with your obligations under the Scheme. Conflicts of interest could affect your eligibility for conditional approval. A conflict of interest can be:
 - real (or actual);
 - apparent (or perceived); or
 - potential.

8.2 We will ask you to declare, as part of your application, any business dealings that may be considered an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest. If you later identify that there is an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to your application, you must inform us in writing immediately.

9. Fraudulent Applications

- 9.1 QRIDA takes fraud and corruption seriously. Suspected fraud will be referred to Queensland Police Services (QPS) and/or the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).
- 9.2 Fraud and corruption is a criminal offence under Sections 408C, 408D and 87 of the *Criminal Code 1899 (Qld)*. For corporations, directors and company officials, Section 596 and 184 of the *Australian Corporations Act 2001 (Clth)* will also apply.
- 9.3 Providing false or misleading information or documents in the QRIDA application process is an offence. Penalties may apply under Section 41 and 42 of the *Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994*.
- 9.4 By signing the application form, you acknowledge that the information you provide is true and accurate and agree to be bound by the Scheme's guidelines and provisions.
- 9.5 QRIDA reserves the right to pursue and recover funding provided under fraudulent and dishonest circumstances.

10. More information

For more information on the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Grant Scheme contact QRIDA on **Freecall 1800 623 946** or email wats@qrda.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 2021*; or
- b) a certificate given under a law of the Commonwealth or another State that provides for approving the modification of vehicles.

Conventional Taxi means a taxi that is not a 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.

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

- Brisbane;
- Maryborough;

- Bundaberg;
- Cairns;
- Gold Coast;
- Hervey Bay;
- Ipswich;
- Mackay;
- 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 2021*, schedule 8.