



Australian Government

Department of Families,
Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs

Harmonisation of Disability Parking Schemes

1. Eligibility Criteria

Current Eligibility Criteria in Queensland

1. You must be unable to walk unaided and/or require a wide parking bay to exit and enter the vehicle—and have total dependence on a wheelchair or on a large mobility device (for example a walking frame). Note: this does not include splints, crutches or walking sticks.
2. Your ability to walk is severely impaired as a result of permanent or temporary loss of the use of one or both legs, or whose physical condition is detrimentally affected as a result of walking 100 metres.
3. You must be a Queensland resident over three years of age.

Proposed New Eligibility Criteria

Permanent permit

Under the proposed scheme, a person would be eligible for a permanent permit if:

- Criteria 1:** You are unable to walk and always require the use of a manual wheelchair or powered mobility device, or
- Criteria 2:** Your ability to walk is permanently and severely restricted and you sometimes require the use of a mobility or medical aid. This does not include a walking stick, shopping trolley or pram, or
- Criteria 3:** You do not use a mobility or medical aid but your ability to walk is permanently restricted by a significant medical condition or disability, which sometimes requires the physical assistance of another person and limits your access to the community.

Temporary permit

Under the proposed scheme, a person would be eligible for a temporary permit if:

- Criteria 1:** Your ability to walk is significantly restricted on a temporary (rather than permanent) basis and you sometimes require use of a mobility or medical aid; this does not include a walking stick, shopping trolley or pram, or

Criteria 2: You do not use a mobility or medical aid but your ability to walk is restricted by a significant medical condition or disability, which requires the physical assistance of another person and limits your access to the community for the temporary period.

Temporary permits will be issued for a minimum of six months and a maximum of 12 months. Arrangements for extending permit eligibility will continue to be managed separately by state and territory governments.

Organisations wishing to obtain a permit would need to continue to show evidence that they are transporting individuals who meet the above criteria.

Key Changes for Queensland

- ▶ The two tier scheme, Blue and Red Permits, will be replaced by a single tier scheme.
- ▶ The current eligibility criteria will be replaced with an overall focus on an applicant's functional ability.
- ▶ Temporary permits will now be available for a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months only.
- ▶ The national proposal will be supplemented with a detailed scoring assessment tool to be developed for agencies to determine eligibility.

2. Entitlements and Concessions

Current Entitlements and Concessions in Queensland

1. Blue permit
 - i. holders are entitled to park free of charge in metered/regulated areas where the time limit is more than 30 minutes.
 - ii. holders are entitled to park in disability parking bays (both on and off street locations) including hospitals or shopping centres.
2. Red permit
 - i. Holders are entitled to park in disability parking bays (both on and off street locations) including hospitals or shopping centres.

Proposed National Minimum Standards for Disability Parking Permit Concessions

Permit holders may park in reserved parking spaces displaying the International Symbol of Access (ISA). The following concessions would apply in other parking spaces:

1. If the parking sign is up to and including 30 minutes—up to one hour.
2. If the parking sign is more than 30 minutes—twice the time limit.
3. Parking meters—After the maximum period indicated on the meter has been reached, the time limits in points 1 and 2 apply.

Points 1 and 2 relate to territory and/or local government operated parking areas.

Key Changes For Queensland

- The parking entitlement in reserved spaces that display the International Symbol for Access remains unchanged.
- Parking entitlements and concessions are the same for all permit holders.
- The proposed parking concessions for areas up to and including 30 minutes will provide permit holders with increased access to short term regulated parking.
- The proposed parking concessions for areas more than 30 minutes are reduced from current provisions to twice the signed time limit.
- The proposed national concessions will benefit permit holders who travel in other States and Territories by reducing uncertainty.

3. National Permit Design

Current Queensland Disability Parking Scheme Permit



Proposed New Permit Design



It is proposed that the main areas of the new design will include the following features:

- (a) be easily identifiable and readable;
- (b) the International Symbol for Access;
- (c) security features such as a permit number, an expiry date, hologram foil, shadow image, micro printing; and background print;
- (d) Australian images such as the Southern Cross and the map of Australia for identity when travelling overseas;
- (e) limited specific state information on the back of the disability parking permit as well as the state, territory or local government logo/crest/name on the front of the permit; and
- (f) a clear front pocket so credit card size permits with photos can continue to be used in NSW and those jurisdictions who wish to continue to do so.

Key Changes For Queensland

- ▶ The proposed new permit design will replace the existing Blue and Red permits with one permit design.
- ▶ Positioning of the permit on the left-hand bottom side of the front windscreen remains unchanged.
- ▶ Outside of the individual State and Territory recognition, all permits in Australia will be the same.