

## getDriving

*getDriving is a grant programme run by the Cerebral Palsy Society of NZ for its current financial members. It provides driving lessons, enabling members to gain their Restricted Driver Licence.*

*The programme covers an initial series of 10 lessons with an instructor that is geographically closest to the member and who has experience teaching drivers to use a vehicle with modifications (if required).*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How much do driving lessons cost for someone who has Cerebral Palsy?**

Typically, lessons are \$75 - \$120 for a 30-minute lesson. If the driving instructor has to travel to your region from afar mileage is charged in addition to the driving lesson fee.

### **Is getDriving just for Auckland members?**

No, this is available to all members nationwide. The first two getDriving grant recipients are from Christchurch and Palmerston North. This is definitely not just an "Auckland thing".

### **I have startle reflex, is it safe for me to drive?**

An Occupational Therapist (OT) will need to determine if you can overcome your startle reflex to operate a vehicle safely.

### **Can you support me to get my Learner Licence, Motorbike Licence, HT/Forklift Licence?**

No. This funding is only for driving lessons to prepare CP Society members to gain their 1R (restricted) driver license.

### **Will the Cerebral Palsy Society pay the driver licence test fees?**

No. This funding is only for driving lessons. Members will need to self-fund the \$134.80 Restricted Driver Licence Fee.

### **Can I use getDriving to fund a defensive driving course so I can get my full license quicker?**

No. This funding is only for driving lessons to prepare CP Society members to gain their 1R driver license

### **Do I need to see a General Practitioner (GP) to approve my application?**

Yes. All applicants must see their GP and have them approve their getDriving application form.

The GP can sign the form, or refer you for a driving OT Assessment.

A General Practitioner (GP) will refer you to a driving OT if they feel they do not know enough about vehicle modifications to be able to determine if it is safe for you to drive or not.

If you are on certain medication that impacts your hand-eye coordination or reaction times, or have a very strong startle reflex, then a GP may be able to indicate that you should not be driving for safety reasons. We leave it to medical professionals to determine who should and should not be driving, and what vehicle modifications and driving conditions they require to operate a motor vehicle safely.

### **Is the Occupational Therapy (OT) Assessment essential?**

Whether or not you need an OT Assessment will be determined by your GP.

### **Do I have to pay for an Occupational Therapy (OT) Assessment?**

Yes. If you need an OT Assessment it needs to be self-funded.

Depending on your region you will be paying between \$800 - \$1200 for a driving OT Assessment.

### **The driving Occupational Therapy assessment is expensive. Can getDriving pay for that?**

Unfortunately, no. The getDriving funding pool only covers the cost of driving lessons with a specialist driving instructor.

If you live in an [Enabling Good Lives](#) (EGL) region (Manawatu, Christchurch or Hamilton) you can have the cost of a driving assessment covered by your Enabling Good Lives package.

If you are a [Manawanui](#) IF client you can have IF cover a driving OT assessment, as long as it will not impact on your day to day supports to the extent it impacts your quality of life.

We are currently negotiating with other IF providers about accessing IF funding to cover OT driving assessments.

WINZ will fund the OT assessment with a recoverable advance, but this is dependent on you and what debt you currently have with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) or if you are receiving any supports from MSD. We are currently advocating for MSD to fund this fee and for it to be non-recoverable.

### **Can I use my e-card funding to help fund an Occupational Therapy (OT) Assessment?**

No. The e-card funding is a separate programme, and an OT Assessment does not fit the criteria.

### **How do I find a driving Occupational Therapist (OT)?**

Please [click here](#) for a list of Occupational Therapists. If your area is not covered, don't despair. Driving OT's and disability driving instructors often travel. Renata can support you to work out who to call if you need help.

### **What do I do if there are no driving Occupational Therapists/Disabled driving instructors in my area?**

Renata can support you to find the travel schedule for an OT visiting your region. We can explore options for you either learning to drive outside of your region, or seeing if an instructor can come to your area – or a combination of both.

### **Is there a time frame I need to do the lessons in?**

Within one month of receiving confirmation that your getDriving application has been approved, you will be expected to complete your first five driving lessons inside a two-week period.

If the wait time is longer due to instructor availability or them not being in your town within that time frame, please discuss with Renata.

### **What happens if I need more than 10 driving lessons?**

We have **some** capacity to continue support to members who need more than 10 driving lessons.

However, this is on a case-by-case basis and will require the driving instructor to speak to CPS staff to form a plan on how we support the member to pass in a way that is mana enhancing and financially viable.

### **Why do you encourage us to have at least 2 or 3 lessons per week?**

We encourage you to have your driving lessons in close succession so that your learning is fresh and you are able to retain and re-practice the skills you are learning on the road.

When you space out your driving lessons it is more difficult to retain what you have learned, and results in you needing more driving lessons.

We want you to learn in the most efficient way possible.

It's better for you to pass quicker, and better for other members if you need less lessons as it frees up funds and enables the Society to support someone else to drive.

**If I fail the restricted driver test will getDriving pay for a few more lessons for me?**

This will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Generally speaking, if you fail once we will help, but with limited resources we are unable to keep funding lessons for one person.

**Can you support parents or family members who will be transporting a child who has CP to get their restricted driver licence?**

No. An able-bodied family member does not require the additional financial input that someone with Cerebral Palsy needs, as they do not require an Occupational Therapy assessment or a specialised vehicle with driving modifications.

getDriving funds lessons to help mitigate the additional expense that someone with Cerebral Palsy faces when getting their restricted driver license.

**I have had an Individual Grant from the Cerebral Palsy Society for driving lessons but it wasn't enough for me to be confident enough to pass. Can I apply for getDriving?**

Yes. You are still welcome to apply. Please note we will be in touch with the driving instructor you worked with to figure out the best way to support you moving forward.

**If my CP is mild and I don't need any vehicle modifications to drive safely, will you fund standard driving lessons for me?**

Yes. If you can drive a standard vehicle, or have a driving condition like you 'must drive an automatic vehicle only', we will be happy to fund your lessons with the AA or any other mainstream driving instructor.

**What happens once I get my Restricted Driver Licence?**

Renata will write a support letter to help you apply for a disability vehicle grant from the Ministry of Health ([Accessible](#) or [Enable NZ](#)) and if that application is declined, we will apply for a vehicle grant from [Lottery Grants Board](#).

***For more information:***

- Go to [www.cerebralpalsy.org.nz/member-services/getdriving](http://www.cerebralpalsy.org.nz/member-services/getdriving)
- Email [renata@cpsociety.org.nz](mailto:renata@cpsociety.org.nz)
- Phone 0800 503 603.