



28 August 2020

The Hon Corey Wingard MP  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
[ministerwingard@sa.gov.au](mailto:ministerwingard@sa.gov.au)

Dear Minister

Re – Driver's Tests

COTA SA, South Australia's peak body for older people, welcomes your appointment to this important portfolio.

As you no doubt know retaining a driver's licence, if it is safe to do so, is important for older people because it supports their independence, active lives and inclusion. In some instances, because of the presence of a medical condition, some people must undergo a practical driving test to assess safety to drive.

Two issues have recently been raised with us relating to these driving tests.

The first came from a man in Murray Bridge who was initially stopped from driving but, having now controlled the medical condition that affected his driving, is wanting to be retested. He advises that his only option is to be tested in Adelaide and, given he does not have a driver's licence, this creates a very real barrier. Given that 26% of older South Australians live outside metropolitan Adelaide, it would make sense for driving tests to be scheduled periodically in regional centres to enable better access to older people (and others) who live in rural areas.

We have also been advised by a leading geriatrician that people have recently failed their driving tests because they were not tested in their usual car apparently because the Registrar of Motor Vehicles currently insists that government cars are used because of COVID-19. Testing older people, including those with some cognitive impairment, in what is not their car, is 'unfair'.

I bring these matters to your attention because mobility is fast emerging as a key issue in the isolation and loneliness of older South Australians.

Yours sincerely

**Jane Mussared**  
Chief Executive