Northern Territory Taxi Subsidy Scheme Application

CPVF21
NT Taxi Subsidy Scheme Application

Please read these instructions before completing this form.

Eligibility
The Northern Territory Taxi Subsidy Scheme (NTTSS) provides financial assistance for taxi travel of up to 50 percent of a taxi fare, for people with disabilities or significant mobility restrictions, who are dependent on taxis for transport. Taxi fares must be paid for by combining the use of the NTTSS smartcard with payment of cash and/or credit or debit card.

The scheme is not intended to meet all costs associated with your travel and is subject to application criteria and available budget.

Criteria
To be eligible for NTTSS membership you must be a resident of the Northern Territory. You will be required to provide proof of your permanent residential address e.g. current Centrelink card, current NT Driver’s licence, rates notice or utilities account i.e. PowerWater (within the last six months).

Under the existing categories, you may be eligible to join this scheme if you are unable to safely use public transport due to:

1. Dependence on a wheelchair/scooter for all mobility outside of the home.
2. A disability with significant mobility restrictions.
3. Significant visual impairment in both eyes.
4. Severe and uncontrollable epilepsy with seizures involving loss of consciousness.
5. Significant intellectual disability, memory or communicative impairment.

The scheme does not assist people with short term mobility restrictions of five months or less following acute injury, fracture or surgery.

Membership
To apply for membership you must complete an application form and Doctor/Specialist or Allied Health Professional assessment. You must also provide two passport sized photographs (one certified).

Applications may be approved on a permanent (up to five years) or temporary (between six and 12 months) basis. Membership will be temporary where an applicant has a condition that could improve with medical and/or surgery treatment or rehabilitation.

There are Five Categories of Membership:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category A</th>
<th>Applicants with exceptional circumstances and considerable financial hardship. Ministerial approval of Category A applications is required.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category B</td>
<td>Must use a taxi at least five days a week on a regular basis and be financially disadvantaged because of your transport needs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category B MPV</td>
<td>You must be assessed as having to use a Multiple Purpose Taxi for this category.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category C</td>
<td>Middle-range use (most approved applicants will receive this category).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category D</td>
<td>Low or intermittent use, for applicants who have a disabling condition that “flares up” from time to time e.g. arthritis.</td>
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How to Apply

Application and assessment are required for membership of the scheme. Each application must be endorsed by your Doctor/Specialist or Allied Health Professional and will be assessed on an individual basis.

Part A – Pages 3 to 5 must be completed by the applicant, carer or agent. Also the applicant’s declaration on page 5 must be completed, signed and dated by the applicant, carer or agent.

The declaration by the witness of the photograph and proof of residency must be completed, signed and dated on page 4.

Completed application and associated paperwork should be submitted to:

Commercial Passenger Vehicles Branch
Taxi Subsidy Scheme Officer
GPO Box 2520
Darwin NT 0801

The witness can be a:

List of Approved Persons

- Aboriginal organisation committee member or chair
- Accountant
- Bank, credit union, building society officer
- Commissioner of Oaths
- Disability support organisation officer
- Government disability support officer
- Justice of the Peace
- Lawyer/Solicitor/Barrister
- Magistrate/Judge
- Manager or Supervisor of a supported or aged care accommodation, or nursing home
- Manager or Supervisor of a community, cultural or remote resource centre
- Person qualified in a health related field (e.g. dentist, doctor, optometrist, occupational therapist, pharmacist, physiotherapist, psychiatrist, psychologist, registered nurse etc)
- Police officer or aide
- Public servant (NT or Commonwealth)
- Real Estate Agent
- Veterinary surgeon

Part B – Pages 6 to 10 must be completed by an Approved Health Professional which can be;

List of Health Professionals

- Behavioural Educator
- Chiropractor
- Low Vision Orientation Coordinator
- Medical Practitioner
- Mobility Instructor
- Occupational Therapist
- Optometrist
- Orthotist
- Osteopath
- Physiotherapist
- Podiatrist
- Prosthetist
- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist
- Registered Nurse

If eligibility is unclear, additional medical information may be sought from your Doctor/Specialist or Allied Health Professional. Applications are usually processed within six weeks of receipt. However the assessment process may be delayed if further information is required.

Approved applicants will be sent an acceptance letter and an NTTSS smartcard by the Department of Transport (DoT).

Unsuccessful applicants will be advised in writing by DoT. Applicants may appeal the outcome in writing, addressed to the Taxi Subsidy Scheme Officer. Appeals will only be considered if additional relevant clinical information supporting the severity of the disability is provided by a Doctor/Specialist or Allied Health Professional.
# Part A

**NT Taxi Subsidy Scheme Application**

To be completed by the applicant or his/her authorised agent/carer

### Applicant’s Details

- **Gender:**
  - [ ] Mr
  - [ ] Mrs
  - [ ] Miss
  - [ ] Ms
  - [ ] Other

- **Surname:**
- **Given name/s:**

- **Date of birth:**
- **Please identify any other names you are known by:**

### Address

- **Residential address:**
- **Postal address (if different to residential):**

### Contact Details

- **Phone (home):**
- **Phone (work):**
- **Phone (mobile):**
- **Fax:**
- **Email:**

### Agent / Carer / Next of Kin Details

- **Name:**
- **Relationship:**

- **Address:**
  - [ ] Social, entertainment, religious
  - [ ] Medical, dental, rehabilitation
  - [ ] Shopping, banking
  - [ ] Work, school, study

- **Phone:**

### Travel Details (please specify number (eg. 3) of regular return trips per week)

- **Type of Pension / Benefit**
  - [ ] Employed
  - [ ] Pension/ Benefit
  - [ ] Other (please specify)

- **Do you require a wheelchair accessible taxi?**
  - [ ] Yes
  - [ ] No

- **Are you a current NT Taxi Subsidy Scheme Member?**
  - [ ] Yes
  - [ ] No
Photographs

The photographs must:

- Be no more than six months old
- Be passport size, which is 45-50mm high and 35-40mm wide
- Be in colour, printed on photo-quality paper without visible pixels or dot patterns
- Have plain, light coloured background
- Show applicant's head and top of shoulders
- Show the applicant looking directly at the camera with eyes open (if possible)
- Show the applicant with his/her hat and sunglasses removed

Please do not pin, staple or glue your photographs to this form.

Witness' Declaration of Applicant's Photographs and Proof of Residency

Witness' full name

I declare that (tick box):

[ ] Health Professional  [ ] Justice of the Peace, or Commissioner of Oaths  [ ] Police Officer
[ ] Solicitor, Barrister or Judge  [ ] Other (please specify) .................................................................

I am satisfied that the photograph witnessed by myself represents the applicant's true identity.

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

I am satisfied that the document presented by the applicant as proof that the applicant is a resident of the Northern Territory is current (i.e. not expired), or in the case of a rates notice or utility account, not more than six months old.

Please list document/s sighted: ...........................................................................................................
...........................................................................................................
...........................................................................................................

Witness' Signature Date   Witness' Phone Number

Witness' Organisation
Applicant’s Declaration / Consent

I declare that the information provided in this application is complete, true and correct in every detail.

*I consent to my Doctors, Specialists or other Health Professionals providing the Department of Transport (DoT) with any personal information required to assess my application to the NTTSS if relevant to the application.*

I understand that I may be interviewed if insufficient information has been provided for assessment.

If this application is approved, I undertake to observe the conditions governing the granting of the subsidy and acknowledge that failure to do so may lead to my withdrawal from the scheme.

I understand that costs associated with the completion of this form are my responsibility.

**Privacy Statement:** The personal information contained in your application will be used to assess your entitlements for the NTTSS. Consistent with NT Government legislation and policy, we take all reasonable steps to protect the privacy of your personal and health information. We will only release your personal information with your consent or where this is permitted or required by law. You are able to request access to the information held about you by contacting the Taxi Subsidy Scheme Officer.

A Card Provider is contracted by DoT to produce a NTTSS member smartcard. Your name, membership number and photograph will be disclosed to the provider for the purposes of producing your NTTSS member smartcard. After your smartcard has been dispatched to you, the provider will return your photograph to DoT. The Card Provider will not store or release your name, membership number or photograph.

Applicant’s Signature                      Date

Carer / Agent Name       Relationship to Applicant

Agent Organisation/s                 Carer / Agent Phone

Carer / Agent Signature              Date

/ /
# Part B
## NT Taxi Subsidy Scheme Application

To be completed by a Doctor/Specialist or Allied Health Professional. Please refer to list of Approved Health Professionals on page 2.

### Guidelines for specified health professionals
- Complete details of diagnosis, summary of clinical management and public transport.
- Please provide as much detail as possible to support this application.

### Select the appropriate criterion from page 7
- Complete details for the selected criterion as indicated.
- Sign and date page 10.
- Stamp or print contact details clearly.
- Advise applicant of requirement for two photographs (one to be certified), if not already provided.
- Certify one photograph and verify proof of residency, if requested and complete witness declaration on page 4.

The following reasons are **not** grounds for approval:
- Difficulty in accessing bus due to availability, timetable, remoteness or terrain.
- Financial constraints.
- Pension concession card eligibility.
- Inability to drive.
- Disability occurring in the recovery period following acute illness, injury or terrain.

*Failure to provide sufficient relevant information on this application could result in ineligibility or a request for further information and may delay assessment process.*

### Medical Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical Practitioner</th>
<th>Medical Specialist</th>
<th>Allied Health Professional</th>
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**Diagnosis or Diagnoses relevant to this application**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Date of onset</th>
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**Please provide summary of clinical management (e.g. medications, physiotherapy, surgery etc.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of clinical management</th>
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**For approximately how long has this applicant been in your care?**

(e.g. five years or first consultation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
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**Do you consider the applicant to have significant mobility restrictions?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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**Is the severity of the applicant’s condition expected to substantially improve, such that he/she will be able to use public transport in the future e.g. following major surgery?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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**If Yes, when do you expect this to occur (indicates temporary status)?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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*The scheme does not assist people with short term mobility restrictions of five months or less following acute injury, fracture or surgery.*

### Public Transport

**Q1. Is this applicant able to use public buses?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Intermittently</th>
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OFFICE USE ONLY

NTTSS Member ID:

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OFFICE USE ONLY

NTTSS Member ID:
**Part B Continued...**

**ONLY ONE CRITERION NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Complete on page</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>(dependence on a wheelchair/mobility device)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(significant mobility restrictions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(significant visual impairment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(severe and uncontrollable epilepsy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>(significant intellectual disability, significant Psychiatric condition, memory or communication impairment)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Criterion 1: Dependency on Wheelchair / Mobility Device**

*Criterion 1 applications are to be completed by a Medical Practitioner / Specialist or Allied Health Professional.*

Does the applicant use a mobility aid?  
- ☐ Yes  
- ☐ No

Where is the aid used?  
- ☐ Indoors  
- ☐ Outdoors

What is the frequency of use?  
- ☐ Always  
- ☐ Occasionally

Describe the type of mobility aid used (e.g. wheelchair, crutches, walker, stick)  
- .................................................................

Is the applicant dependant on a wheelchair or other device for mobility?  
- ☐ Yes  
- ☐ No

If Yes, please provide the make, model and dimensions.  
- .................................................................

Also, if Yes, is the wheelchair able to be used in a taxi (in line with Australian Standards i.e. tie down points for restraints to secure in a taxi)?  
- ☐ Yes  
- ☐ No

Is the applicant able to stand from sitting independently on a daily basis?  
- ☐ Yes  
- ☐ No

Does the applicant require assistance from another person for mobility?  
- ☐ Yes  
- ☐ No

Can the applicant ascend and descend 3 steps independently (using a rail)?  
- ☐ Yes  
- ☐ No

How far can the applicant walk before needing to take a rest due to the severity of symptoms?  
- Independently without aid  
- With mobility aid (if used)  
- .................................................................

Is this client able to independently transfer from wheelchair/mobility device to a car? If Yes, client will not require a wheelchair taxi.  
- ☐ Yes  
- ☐ No

Is the client able to independently use and access a public transport bus using a wheelchair or mobility device?  
- ☐ Yes  
- ☐ No
Part B
Continued...

**Criterion 2: Significant Mobility Restrictions**

**Criterion 2 applications are to be completed by a Medical Practitioner / Specialist or Allied Health Professional.**

What symptoms does this client have that significantly limits his/her mobility?

- Balance
- Pain
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Other, please specify..........................................................

Is this client able to complete normal community activity e.g. shopping, using public transport?

- Yes
- No

If No, please provide details:

...........................................................................................................................................................................
...........................................................................................................................................................................
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...........................................................................................................................................................................

**Criterion 3: Significant Visual Impairment in Both Eyes**

**Criterion 3 applications are to be completed by an Ophthalmologist or Low Vision Coordinator / Assessor. This applicant must have significant visual impairment, with eligibility for Disability Support Pension (Blind) or Aged Pension or have a similar level of severe visual impairment.**

Does this applicant receive the Disability Support Pension (Blind) or Aged Pension?

- Yes
- No

Please specify visual impairment...........................................................................................................................................

Please outline why this client cannot use public transport:

...........................................................................................................................................................................
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**Criterion 4: Severe and Uncontrollable Epilepsy**

**Criterion 4 applications are to be completed by a General Practitioner / Medical Specialist. Applicants with epilepsy in a stable condition as a result of medication are not eligible for this scheme.**

Does this client have a recent history of uncontrollable seizures?

- Yes
- No

Is there loss of consciousness?

- Yes
- No

How many seizures has the applicant had in the last three months?

..........................................

Has the applicant been reviewed by a specialist in the last 12 months?

- Yes
- No

Please provide details of last review:

...........................................................................................................................................................................
...........................................................................................................................................................................
...........................................................................................................................................................................
...........................................................................................................................................................................

Date of last review: ..........................................

Is this client able to independently travel in a taxi?

- Yes
- No
Part B
Continued ...

Criterion 5: Intellectual Disability Significant Psychiatric Condition, Memory or Communication Impairment

Criterion 5 applications are to be completed by a Medical Practitioner, Specialist Psychiatrist, Psychologist or Allied Health Professional. This criterion applies to applicants with significant psychiatric disabilities, cognitive impairment and includes people with dementia.

Does this client have an intellectual/behavioural disability or communication impairment such that he/she is unable to access public transport without assistance?

- Yes
- No

Does this client have a serious psychiatric condition such that he/she is unable to interact with the public transport system e.g. buy a ticket, identify the correct stop?

- Yes
- No

Is this client able to independently travel in a taxi?

- Yes
- No

Is this client able to independently travel in a taxi if he/she is met at both ends of the trip?

- Yes
- No

Does this client have serious communication difficulties, such that he/she is unable to interact with the public transport system e.g. buy a ticket, identify the correct bus stop?

- Yes
- No

Is this client likely to become aggressive, highly anti-social or self-harming due to his/her disability if he/she uses the public transport system?

- Yes
- No

Is this client likely to become seriously disorientated or confused if he/she uses the public transport system?

- Yes
- No
### Additional Supporting Comments (Health Professional to Complete)

In the following space, please summarise your opinion of the applicant’s disability including any comments on how their medical or behavioural conditions bear on their application for subsidised transport.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
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### Medical Professional’s Endorsement

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<tr>
<td>Medical Professional’s Name:</td>
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<td>Address:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialisation:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Professional’s Signature:</td>
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