

MEDIA RELEASE

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MEDICAL ASSESSMENTS FOR NSW DRIVER LICENCES TO GO DIGITAL

Minister for Roads Duncan Gay today announced a new online system which will streamline NSW Fitness to Drive medical assessments.

"Gone are the archaic days where motorists had to visit a doctor and then laboriously submit their medical assessment by snail mail or in person at a registry or service centre," Mr Gay said.

"This digital service developed by HealthLink, means the 400,000 people who go through this process each year can now cross the visit into a registry or service centre off their to-do-list.

"The communication from doctor to the assessors will also be instant which means cases will be reviewed faster.

"Time is one of our most precious commodities in today's busy world – so implementing a digital system which will save hours for hundreds of thousands of people is priceless."

The new computer communication system links to the information technology systems of more than 15,500 medical organisations across Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Island nations and Canada.

The NSW Fitness to Drive medical assessment form will now be filled-out and submitted by medical practitioners using their respective practice's software systems to the Roads and Maritime Licence Review Unit immediately for review.

Medical assessments are required for heavy vehicle drivers, elderly drivers and motorists with medical conditions such as epilepsy, sleep disorders and Diabetes.

All doctors will have the ability to submit forms electronically by mid-year.

Doctors who do not have a practice software system can still submit forms electronically via Health Link's Portal interface.

HealthLink's National e-health manager Nikki Breslin said the organisation was delighted to work with the NSW Government.

"Training to use this new electronic software system will be provided for GPs and other health professionals who provide fitness to drive assessments," Ms Breslin said.

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