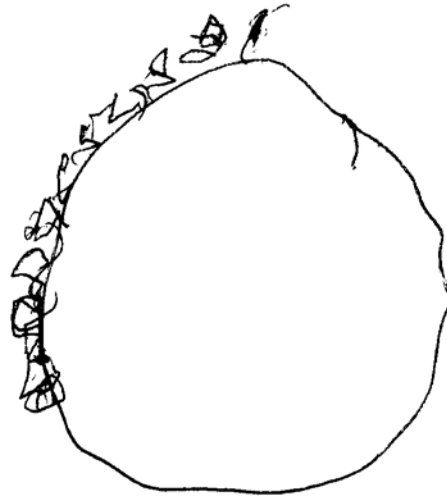


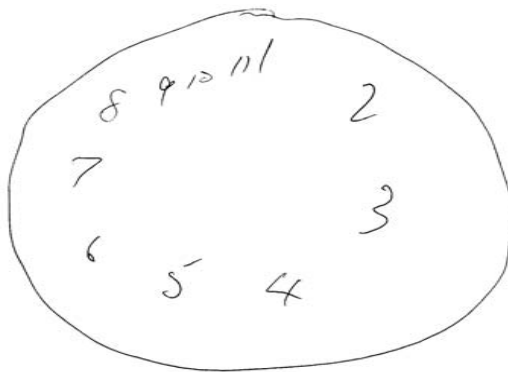
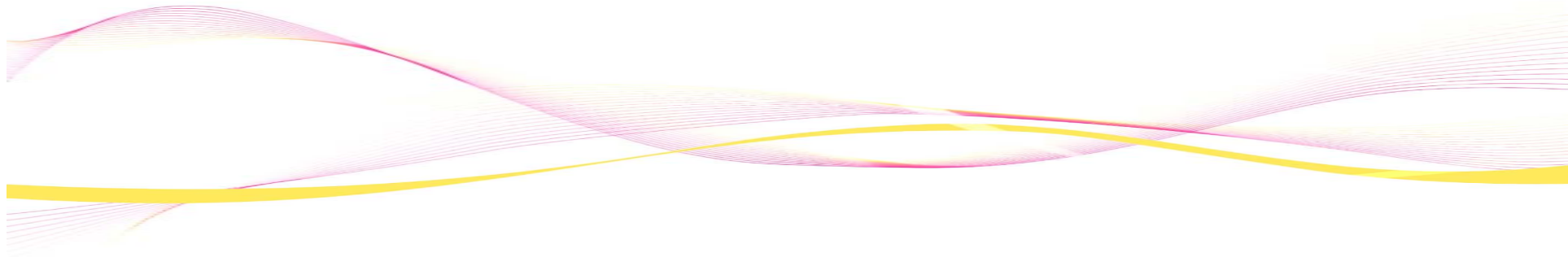
# Clock faces

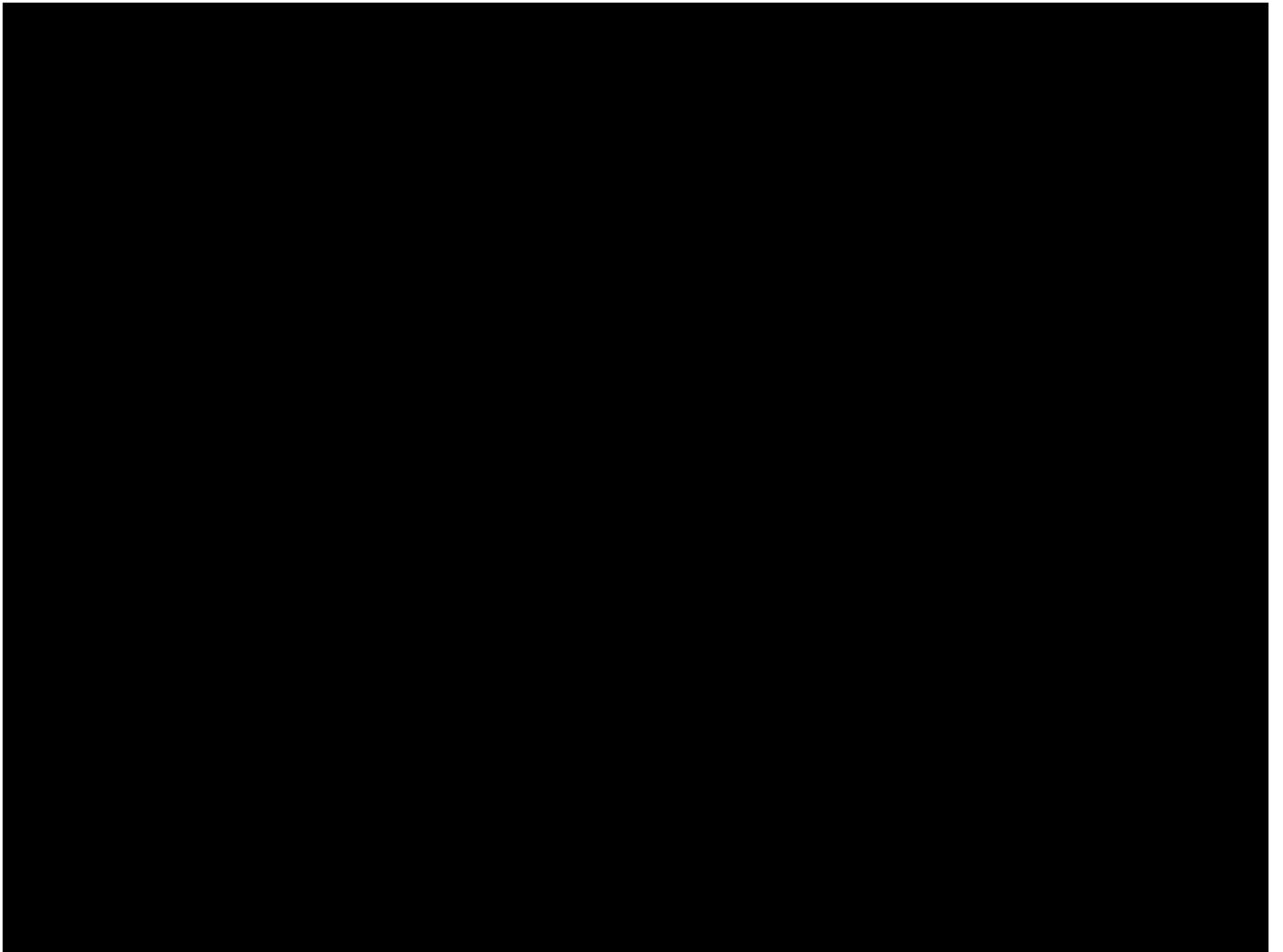


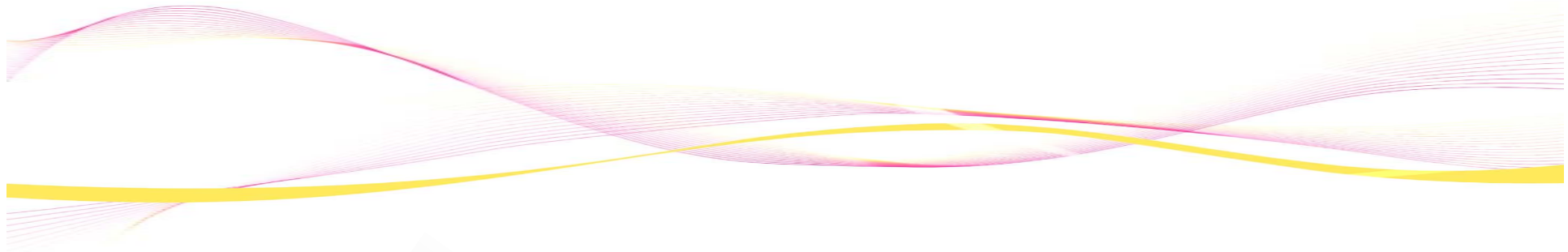
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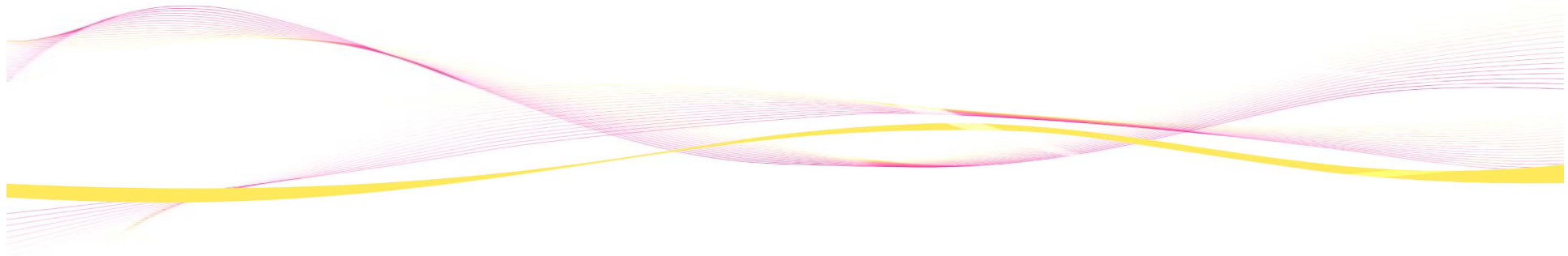
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# Driving Assessments

Jan Smead and Wendy Chandran  
Occupational Therapists



# Session overview

1. Background to Driving Assessments in NSW
2. What happens in a Driving Assessment
3. What are the laws related to driving in NSW
4. What is it like to undertake a driving assessment



## Session overview, cont:

5. What happens after the assessment
6. What is Driver Rehabilitation
7. Strategies for driving safely for longer



# 1. Background to the Driving Assessments

1. The occupational therapist and their role
2. Brief history and why it filled a gap
3. RTA links and their acknowledgment of the driving assessment
4. Complexity of driving / Age Traits and Other factors



## 2. What happens in a driving assessment?

### 1. Who is involved

- The referrer
- The doctor
- The occupational therapist
- The driving instructor

If required an orthoptist and or psychologist



## 2. What happens in the Driving Assessment?

There are two components to the assessment

- The **off-road** component (approximately 1.5 hours) undertaken with the Occupational therapist
- The **on-road** component (approximately 1 hour) undertaken with the driving instructor and the occupational therapist



## 2. What happens in the Driving Assessment?

The **off-road** component consists of a general assessment of person's

- physical status
- vision
- cognition or thinking processes
- knowledge of current road laws



## 2. What happens in the Driving Assessment?

The **on-road** component consists of a general assessment of person's

- driving skills / mechanical operation of the car
- Observations
- planning and decision making
- defensive driving strategies
- navigational skills



# Why a Driving Assessment?

The Driver trained Occupational Therapist has an understanding of the impact of medical problems on driving and can help with strategies to overcome many of these problems.

The assessment process can allow more flexibility in recommendations made to the RTA and this can allow for a person to drive independently for longer.



# Outcome

**Diagnosis**

**+**

**Performance**

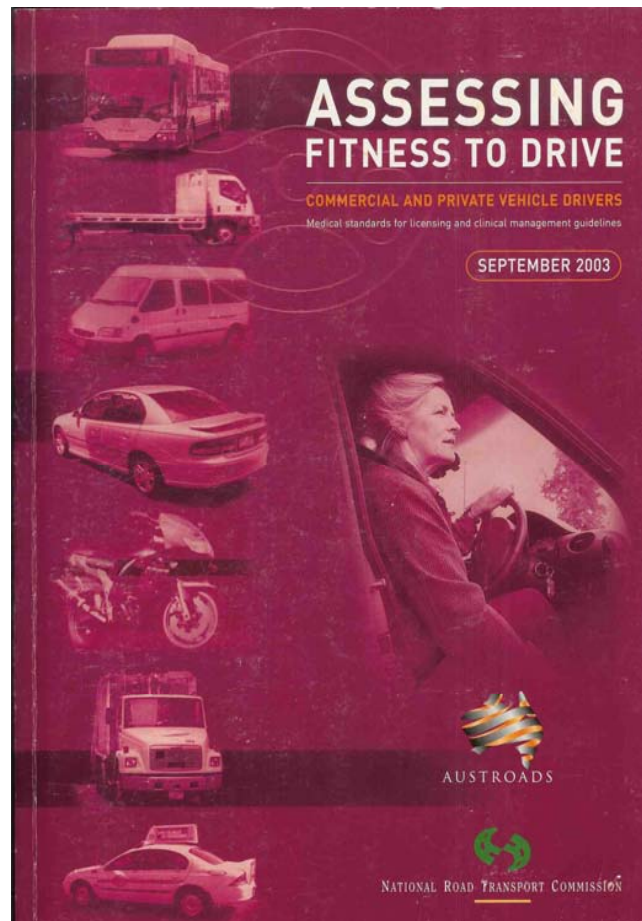
**=**

**Outcome**

**+**

**Influencing factors**

# Driving and Medico-Legal Issues





# Laws and medico-legal issues

Austroads (2007) National Guidelines for Assessing Fitness to Drive states that

**“Health professionals as well as drivers have a responsibility to ensure that compromised fitness to drive does not result in an unacceptably increased risk to the drivers themselves, or members of the public”**



# Laws and medico-legal issues

## **Driver's liability – criminal liability**

**National uniform law requires a person to advise the local driver licensing authority of any permanent or long term injury or illness that affects his/her safe driving ability. The new law imposes penalties for failure to report**



# Laws and Medico-legal Issues

## **Driver's liability – common law liability**

in addition to criminal liability

**(A driver) “may be at risk of common law liability if he/she continues to drive knowing that he/she has a condition that may adversely affect driving.”**

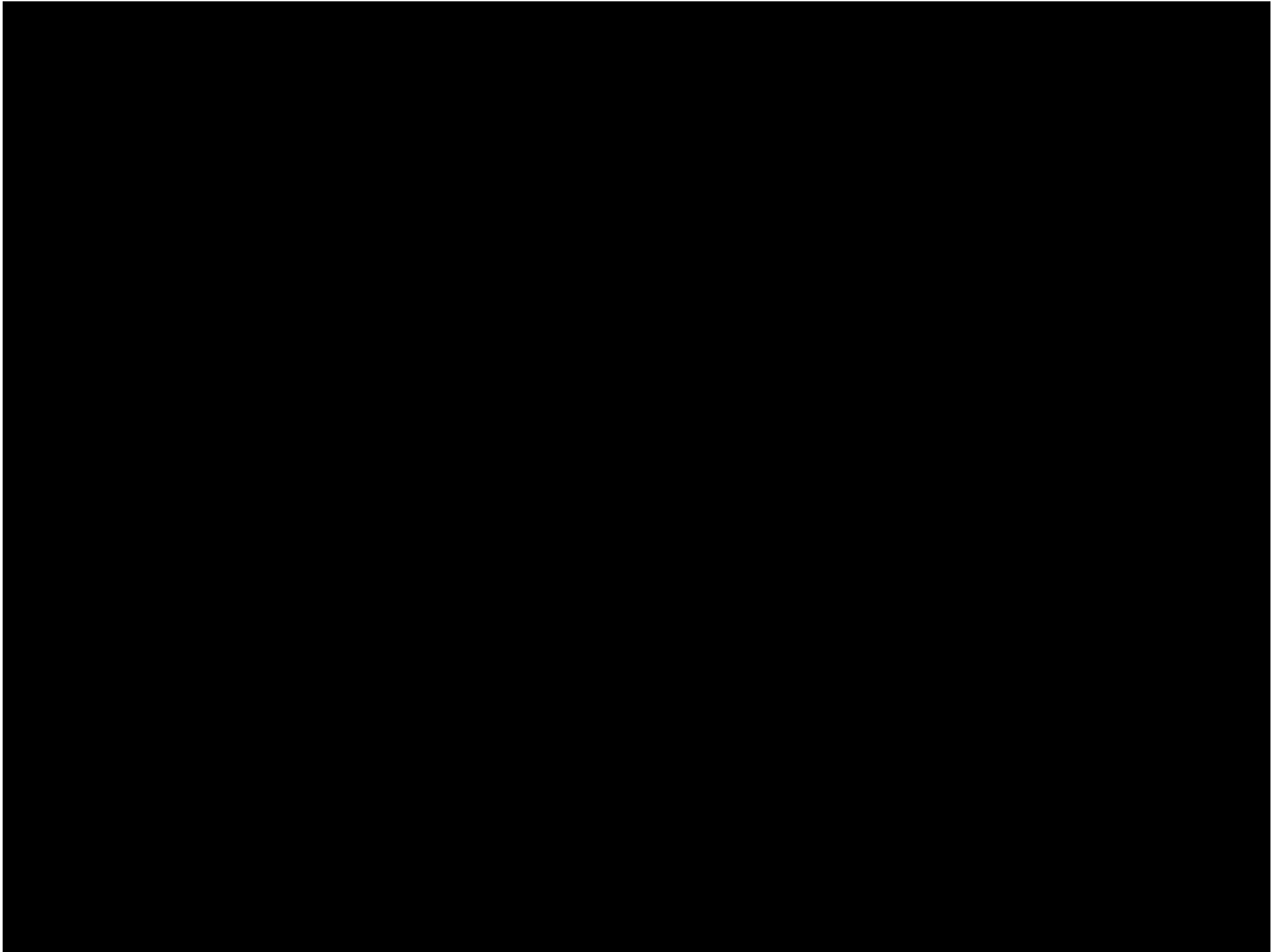


# Laws and medico-legal issues

## **Reporting indemnity in NSW**

Under national uniform driver licensing law already in place in all States and Territories

**”Any person, professional or otherwise, who reports a driver to a driver licensing authority, in good faith, is protected from civil and criminal liability”**





## What happens after the assessment?

- Training with modifications → Instructor / RTA
- Re-Assessments / 3, 6 or 12 monthly.
- Preparation for the future (counselling)
- Restrictions? Self restricting / formal restrictions
- Adjusting driving behaviours → Team Approach
- Vehicle ergonomics



# Restrictions

- No night driving
- Kilometre restrictions
- Automatic vs. Manual
- Changing car?
- Regular driving vs. occasional driving
- Not driving in an emergency



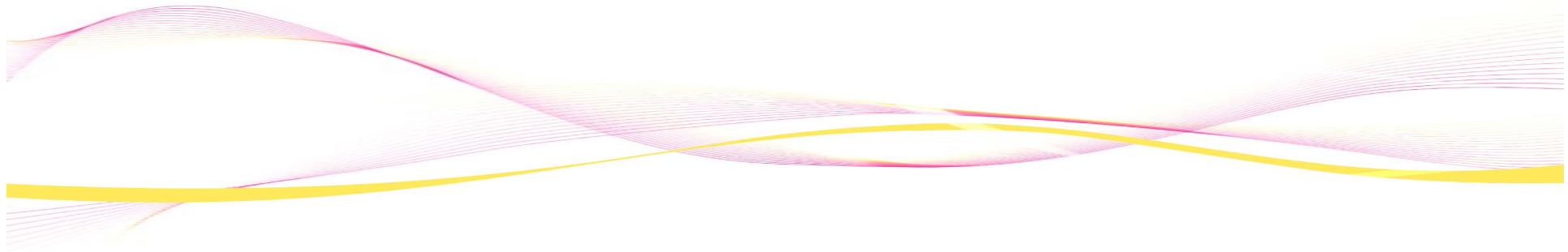
# Restrictions cont.....

- Driving accompanied
- Avoiding peak hours (? restricted times)
- Avoiding poor weather conditions
- Avoiding busy traffic times
- Avoiding driving if not well
- Changes in medication?



# Restrictions cont.....

- Extra mirrors
- Use of technology -  
(need to be up to using it)  
GPS / Reversing sensors / cruise control
- Lesson each year



**Driving Assessment Unit**

**Ryde and Mona Vale**

**Contact (02) 9808 9328**

# Where to go

- To find a driver trained OT

## **OT Australia NSW**

Unit 20,  
3 Avenue of Americas  
Newington NSW 2127

Phone: (02) 9648 3225

Fax: (02) 9737 0023

Email: [info@otnsw.com.au](mailto:info@otnsw.com.au)

Website: [www.otnsw.com.au](http://www.otnsw.com.au)



