

Client-centered, evidence based off-road driver assessment

Background:

Occupational therapists explore the relationship between health, engagement in occupations and wellbeing with their clients, and have expertise in assessments and interventions that promote an individual's ability to participate in occupations that are meaningful and purposeful. Hence, occupational therapists are ideally placed to assess clients' driving abilities and facilitate clients to maintain their ability to drive safely for as long as possible. However, with no national regulations, assessment practices vary along with client experience of the process. This leads both the client and therapist to question what's best in terms of the experience, and evidence to support assessment practices.

Aim:

This forum will discuss and debate occupational therapy driver off-road assessment: what its like for clients, what evidence we have for assessments in use and if we should be working towards a standard national assessment process.

Content:

Following a brief introduction which includes review of OT-Australia (Vic) Competency Standards for OT Driver Assessors, a series of 5 minute presentations will be made on the experience of off-road driver assessment for clients, and Australian assessments such as Drive Safe/ Drive Aware, OT-DORA Battery, and ADSES, and an overview of international off-road assessments. A structured discussion and debate will then be held on the quality and strength of evidence to support driver assessor use of these assessments (in isolation or combination) and what its like for clients to go through this experience. The discussion will conclude with an exploration of the opportunities and limitations associated with a standard national assessment process.

Conclusion:

This forum provides an opportunity for driver assessors discuss and debate off-road assessment practices from both client and therapist viewpoints, examine evidence to support current off-road assessments, and make some recommendations regarding a national process for driver assessment.

Key:

OT-DORA Battery - Occupational Therapy Driver Off Road Assessment Battery
ADSES - Adelaide Driver Self Efficacy Scale