



Proof of disability

Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act 2009

One of the main objectives of the *Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act 2009* is to assist people with a disability who rely on guide, hearing or assistance dogs to have independent access to the community and places of accommodation.

As part of the process to qualify as a person in control of a guide, hearing or assistance dog, a person with a disability must obtain proof of their disability from a qualified medical practitioner.

According to the Act, a disability is a condition that:

- a. is attributable to:
 - i. an intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairment (such as a vision or hearing impairment); or
 - ii. the presence in the person's body of organisms causing illness or disease; and
- b. results in:
 - i. a reduction of the person's capacity for communication, social interaction, learning, mobility or self care or management; and
 - ii. the person needing support.

Also, the disability may be, but need not be, of a chronic episodic nature.

For the process to apply for a Handler Identity Card under this legislation an applicant will have had to have provided a document from a medical practitioner to their trainer. A copy of this will be included with their application to the Director-General, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

For further information:

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