

Question on Notice

No. 1591

Asked on 30 November 2023

MR S MINNIKIN ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

With reference to recent media reports that state ‘In Queensland, the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) requires drivers to obtain a medical clearance form from a doctor confirming they are fit to drive despite being autistic. Failure to do so can result in a \$9,288 fine and cancellation of licence.’—

Will the Minister advise (a) the date that the policy to require autistic drivers to obtain a medical certificate was introduced, (b) details of any advertising or communication campaign to advise existing or potential licence holders of the new requirement and (c) why the department’s ‘Your keys to driving in Queensland’ guide (last updated in November 2022) does not list autism as a medical condition that may adversely affect the ability to drive safely?

ANSWER: [MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)]

I thank the Member for Chatsworth for the question.

On 18 December 2023, I was appointed as Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services and, as such, I am now the responsible Minister to answer this Question.

Recent media coverage around autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and the Assessing Fitness to Drive medical standards contained inaccurate information about the requirement for members of the community with an ASD diagnosis to report their condition to the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR).

The passage quoted in the question is inaccurate. Accurate information can be found on TMR’s website at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/licensing/update/medical/fitness>.

A joint statement between TMR and Autism Queensland can be found at: <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media/media-statements>.