



Fast facts: Taxis and People With Disabilities

Who drives Multi-Purpose Taxis?

- There are 93 Multi-Purpose Taxis (MPTs) on the road in the Perth metropolitan area, and around 200 drivers.
- Our MPT drivers come from all walks of life. They include men and women, and have come from many professions, including nursing and hospitality.
- Generally, the people who apply to become MPT drivers share a desire for a career or lifestyle change that involves more flexible working hours and the chance to 'give something back' to the community.
- Many of our MPT drivers have had experience in caring for a relative or someone close to them who has a disability.

Disability in Western Australia

- There are more than 7,000 people in Perth with wheelchairs and scooters ('Gophers') who currently rely on MPTs as their major form of transport to get to work, hospital or the shops, to enjoy social engagements and to take part in everyday activities that otherwise would be out of their reach. With the ageing population, this figure is likely to increase.
- According to the Disability Services Commission, 405, 500 Western Australians have some level of disability and almost three-quarters of those have a disability that restricts communication, mobility or self-care.
- The Taxi User Subsidy Scheme provides subsidised taxi travel for people with disabilities. There are currently 13,000 subsidised MPT trips made in Perth each month.

Running a successful MPT business

- Our research tells us that many MPT customers prefer to build an ongoing relationship with a driver who is familiar to them, reliable and someone they feel they can trust.



-
- As with any small business venture, establishing an MPT driving business will require hard work and sometimes, long hours. However there are many opportunities to build a regular clientele and expand your business.
 - Getting an MPT licence doesn't limit you to carrying only people with disabilities. If there are no outstanding bookings, you can accept other taxi jobs. This is particularly true at night when there is less demand for specialised MPT taxis and a higher demand for standard taxis.

Making it easier for you

- The Department for Planning and Infrastructure provides a range of incentives to make it easier for people wanting to start an MPT business.
- The lease on an MPT is heavily subsidised and will cost you only \$100 per week, a saving of \$150 a standard taxi lease. We also offer a range of other subsidies to help you build a viable business.
- The MPT Cadetship Scheme allows people to train to become a taxi driver, including the additional training and qualifications needed to obtain an MPT driver's licence, free-of-charge.
- The total value of each cadetship is approximately \$1400.

Find out more

- To enquire about getting an MPT licence, leasing an MPT or applying for the Taxi Cadetship Scheme, contact Krissy McNamee at the Department for Planning and Infrastructure on 9216 8105.

Department for Planning and Infrastructure, January 2007