

Disability parking

A statewide Disabled Persons' Parking Scheme currently operates in Victoria. The Australian Disability Parking Scheme is an initiative developed by the Australian Government, in conjunction with the states and territories to improve disability parking schemes across Australia.

The current scheme provides for two permit categories with varying parking concessions based on the applicant's need for assistance. The permit must only be displayed when the vehicle is being used to transport the individual to whom the permit was issued. It cannot be used if the permit holder is not travelling in the vehicle.

Permits must be clearly displayed so the permit number and expiry date are visible from the exterior of the vehicle.

Parking is not permitted in restricted locations such as Clearways, No Stopping, No Parking Areas, Taxi Only Areas, Bus Zones, and Authorised Resident Areas.

An individual is entitled to hold only **one** disability parking permit.

Permanent Disability Parking Permits

Category One

To be eligible for a category one permit:

- a Medical Practitioner must confirm that an individual has a significant ambulatory disability and they cannot access a vehicle in an ordinary parking bay, or they are required to use a complex walking aid* that prevents access to a vehicle in an ordinary parking bay, or
- a Medical Practitioner must confirm that an individual has either an acute or chronic illness in which minimal walking may endanger their health, or
- a Specialist Medical Practitioner or Clinical Psychologist must confirm that an individual is an extreme danger to themselves and others in a public place without assistance by a carer.



*A complex walking aid is defined as an aid which has more than one contact point with the ground.

Category Two

To be eligible for a category two permit:

- A Medical Practitioner must confirm that an individual has a significant ambulatory disability or severe illness which does not affect their ability to walk, however they require rest breaks when continuous walking is undertaken.



Temporary disability parking permits

Temporary permits will be issued to an individual ability to walk is significantly restricted on a temporary basis and is not likely to improve within six months.

Organisation disability parking permits

Organisations transporting individuals who meet the eligibility criteria are required to complete a separate application form. Eligible organisations will receive a permit for 12 months.

Types of disability parking permits

Within the categories one or two, councils may issue permits as follows:

- Code A – for a driver or passenger who has a significant intellectual or ambulatory disability
- Code B – for a passenger who has a significant intellectual or ambulatory disability
- Code C – for organisations transporting individuals with a disability
- Code D – for a temporary permit

A significant intellectual or ambulatory disability that is not likely to improve in an individual's lifespan (Code A or Code B).

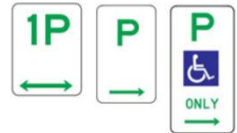
A significant long-term ambulatory disability that is not likely to improve within six months (Code D).

Parking for permit holders

A disability parking permit does not entitle the permit holder to free parking, unless stated on the permissive parking sign.

Parking can differ from one local council to another and permit holders should always check the permissive parking sign.

A disability parking permit allows permit holders to park wherever there is a green or blue "permissive parking sign" such as these:



A disability parking permit does not allow permit holders to park where there is a red restrictive parking sign such as:



Category one (blue) and category two (green) permit holders are entitled to park for twice as long as indicated by a permissive parking sign (under Road Rule 206). The initial parking fee would have to be paid, but that payment would cover twice the length of time than it would for a non-permit holder. e.g. in a 1P parking bay upon payment of the initial parking fee for 1 hour the permit holder may park for up to 2 hours.

In addition, category one (blue) permit holders may park in reserved disability parking bays displaying the International Symbol of Access (ISA), to which a permissive parking sign applies.

Please take particular care when parking in car parks not displaying permissive parking signs, as parking concessions might not apply. For example car parks that require payment on exit are generally operated by contract rather than by using permissive parking signs under the Road Rules, and the amounts they charge for parking will apply equally to all users.

How to apply

Application forms are available from your local council. Permits will only be issued to residents living in the council area.

- The first part of the application form must be completed by the individual or someone on their behalf. The remainder of the application form must be completed by a Specialist Medical Practitioner or Clinical Psychologist for intellectual disabilities, or a Medical Practitioner for all other disabilities.
- The completed form must then be returned to your local council. The individual or someone on their behalf is responsible for any fees incurred in the completion of the form
- If an individual is eligible for the scheme you will receive a copy of the "Conditions of Use" with the permit
- Please contact your local council if further information is required or to apply or renew a disability parking permit.

Permit renewal

Individuals or organisations will be issued with a permit with a date of expiry. Permit holders should contact their local Council prior to the permit expiry date to determine Council's renewal requirements.

Lost/Stolen/Damaged Permits

If a permit is lost, stolen or damaged, the permit holder should contact their local Council to determine Council's renewal requirements.

Permit cancellation

A permit is valid until the date of expiry and Council may cancel at any time for wilful misuse or breach of the "Conditions of Use". Councils may impose penalties for misuse of the permit.

Refusal of an application

If an application is refused, the council must give its reasons for the decision in writing and reconsider the application if a second opinion is sought from another Medical Practitioner or Clinical Psychologist.