



Defence Special Needs Support Group Inc

PO Box 31 Deakin West, ACT, 2600
1800 037 674

Drive Safe Guidelines and Criteria 2021

Background

This program is to assist and help members of Defence Special Needs Support Group Inc. (DSNSG) families with ASD and ADHD, to gain confidence and self-esteem when learning to drive (16 years and above).

This program was developed because DSNSG recognised that people with a disability needed specialised training and assistance to gain their driving licence. Having a licence will potentially make job hunting more accessible to these young men and women and in turn help reduce the financial strain of having a special need.

Contribution

Members will need to pay a contribution towards the Drive Safe to be eligible for this program. The contribution is equally divided between:

- Defence Community Organisation
- Australian Military Bank contribution
- Family contribution

Once the application has been approved, the letter of acceptance will be sent to the Family with an Invoice detailing the method of payment and the amount of the Family's contribution.

Criteria

Be a full member of Defence Special Needs Support Group Inc for a minimum of 6 months:

- Supply supporting documentation of diagnoses.
- Membership details are up to date.
- Dependent needs to be over the age of 16 years and hold a current learner's permit. Other ages will be considered under *Exceptional Circumstances* as deemed by and at the discretion of the appointed National Executive Committee.
- Members pay a contribution towards the Driving Lessons. **Invoice is only valid for 30 days.**
- Family agrees to participate in 2 future interviews conducted by the Program Coordinator to assist with the evaluation of the Drive Safe Program. These interviews will take place approximately 6 months and 12 months after the commencement of driving lessons.

Process

Once the program coordinator has received a completed application, the following check will be conducted:

- Medical documentation or letter from service provider. For Example, Psychologist, Psychiatrist and Speech Pathologist. Please note: a letter from a GP is not sufficient. If medical documentation is different, we will accept Paediatrician.
- Program Coordinator will check that membership details are correct and up to date. If not Program Coordinator to liaise with Memberships and Communications Officer to update.
- Program Coordinator will check that all criteria have been met.
- Program Coordinator will present information to the DSNSG National Coordinator for approval.
- Letter of acceptance or non-acceptance will be sent. **The Letter of Acceptance lasts for 30 days.**
- If the application has been approved, an invoice will be sent via email.
- When the contribution amount is confirmed in the DSNSG bank account, DSNSG will then make payment with the driving school to purchasing the driving lessons.
- Once the Driving School has confirmed full payment, contact details will be passed on to the driving school and the member will be informed that they are now able to contact the driving school to make arrangements to commence lessons.

Memberships

Membership details are as follows:

Full Member

- A Defence member, spouse or de-facto spouse of a Defence member who has or had a dependent with a special need; or a Defence Reserve member, spouse or de-facto spouse of a Defence Reserve member who has or had a dependent with a special need; or a retired Defence member, spouse or de-facto spouse of a retired Defence member who has been a Defence member for at least six years and has had continuous involvement with the Society.

Associate Member

- A spouse or de facto spouse of a Defence member or a Reserve member who is separated from the Defence member or the Reserve member, but who still provides care for the dependent with a special need or An Individual who, or organisation which, are interested in and support the aims, also of the membership information is up to date under. Associate Member: As per our constitution: That falls under 18.2.4 a is not entitled to access DSNSG programs or utilise the DSNSG subsidy for attendance at other activities.

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