



GPO Box 292
Adelaide SA 5001

1800 667 110

Completing the application form.

Please read this information and the application form very carefully. If you consider you meet the criteria for the Companion Card and wish to apply, complete and submit your application form. If you do not receive any of the specific services in **Item 4, Item 5** will need to be completed and your Health Professional will need to complete **Question 6**. Along with the application form you will need to provide two passport size photos which need to be signed by the professional who completed Item 4 or 6.

The Companion Card is Australia wide, and is one tool to facilitate the rights of a small group of people with a disability.

It is a card for people with a significant permanent disability and a need for lifelong attendant support to participate in community activities. It provides free ticketing from participating venues for the attendant.

Eligibility

To receive a South Australian Companion Card, the person must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Live in South Australia
2. Demonstrate that they have a significant, **permanent** disability
3. Demonstrate that due to the impact of their disability, they would be **unable** to participate at **most** community activities without **attendant care** type support
4. Demonstrate that this level of support will be **lifelong**.

Permanent:

- Present or likely to be present for the rest of life. Disabilities that persist over long periods of time are not regarded as permanent. Consideration is given to whether rehabilitation has been complete and whether enough time has elapsed.

Unable:

- Must demonstrate that one is unable to attend without a companion. Unable does not mean that the person can perform the activities but with difficulty, or that he/she faces barriers, but means they are incapable of performing the activity without assistance.

Most:

- The Companion Card is not issued to compensate for a particular venue's lack of accessibility, (including the absence of appropriate signage, captioning, ramps, lifts or interpreters); or for isolated instances of a need for a companion. The requirement for support must be generalised to the majority of community venues.

Attendant care:

- Attendant care type support includes significant assistance with mobility, communication, self care and learning, where the use of aids, equipment or alternative strategies does not enable the person to carry out these tasks. It does not include providing only reassurance, social company or encouragement.

Lifelong:

- Companion Cards cannot be issued if the applicant may become independent in the future as a result of treatment, management, training, recovery or developmental improvements.

The application must indicate a significant condition, and provide information about the extent/severity of the condition. Occasionally the significance of the disability is based on diagnosis, but more often it is based on the impact of the individual's condition in the areas of mobility, communication, self care or learning, planning and thinking as described in their application and information obtained via further inquiries.

All applications are checked for the presence of eligibility indicators. All indicators are required to be confirmed, (e.g. if a diagnosis of legally blind is provided, then the visual acuity should be provided to support this; if a diagnosis of Autism is given then the outcome of the CARS assessment and intelligence tests should be provided.)

After your application is received it will be processed, and if successful, you will receive a Companion Card. If your application is unsuccessful you will receive a letter outlining why your application was rejected.

If you have any questions please contact the Companion Card Information Line on **1800 667 110** (during business hours) or visit the Companion Card website

www.sa.companioncard.asn.au