

Say Hello!

Resources for Bus Services

White Cane Day is on the 15th of October and every year, VisAbility Tasmania dedicates the month to creating more inclusive and supportive communities for people living with low or no vision.

Blindness is a spectrum and each person's experience of blindness is unique. A variety of eye diseases, genetic disorders, congenital blindness, as well as aging or suffering an injury, can interfere with healthy vision.

There are many mobility aids available to assist people with low or no vision travel independently, and feel safer navigating their local communities.

Types of canes

There are various types of canes to assist a person who is blind or has low vision. Three main types of canes are:

- Long cane - A long mobility cane (often called a white cane) enables a person who has low or no vision to detect obstacles, drop offs, changes

in surface and gradient within their path of travel. These cues are detected by the user moving the cane along the ground within their shoulder width. This cane includes a tip, and is available in a range of colours.

- Identification cane / symbol cane - This cane is designed to alert others that the user has low vision. Generally, this type of cane is used to check the depth of steps and kerbs. It can also be a valuable symbol for alerting drivers at road crossings. This cane does not include a tip.
- Support cane - This cane has more in common with a walking stick, and can be used to aid balance and as a means of physical support. The support cane includes white, reflective tape and can assist with identifying to members of the public that the person has low vision.



Bus travel

For people living with low and no vision, travelling by public transport can sometimes be a challenging experience.

It is vital that Tasmanian bus services are accessible and easy to use for people living with a vision impairment, as they are often wholly dependent on public transport to access their community.

How you can help

There are many ways you can help ensure a visually impaired person feels confident and safe when travelling.

Ask prompting questions

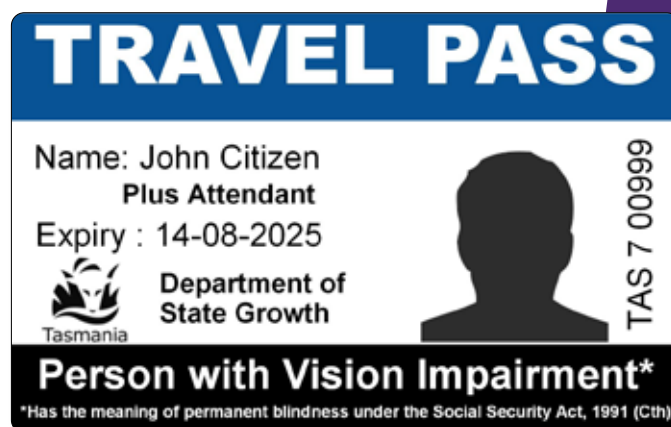
i.e. Where are you travelling to? Would you like me to let you know when we reach your destination?

Safety for passenger boarding / exiting

- Stop the bus in a safe location
- Park as close to the kerb / near any tactile ground markers as possible
- Lower the bus
- Avoid parking near a drain or obstacle
- Please wait until passengers are seated before driving away as vision loss can affect balance.

Vision Impaired Travel Pass

A Vision Impaired Travel Pass provides free travel for the vision impaired traveller and an attendant on the majority of bus services in Tasmania. This concession provides the person with greater access to their community.





Say hello!

When you see someone using a long cane, or any mobility device, please say hello, and behave just as you would around anyone else.

We're all different and unique. These differences might mean some additional support is required, but embracing diversity, understanding another's perspective, and caring about the people in our community is something to be celebrated.

Thank you for helping create a supportive and engaging community, and a greater sense of belonging for everyone.