

# cross section

WA OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION JULY 2013

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### USING THE PERFORM RECALL PLAN PERFORM (PRPP) METHOD OF TASK ANALYSIS IN ON-ROAD DRIVING ASSESSMENT AND REHABILITATION.”

When evaluating fitness to drive, on-road assessment completed by an Occupational Therapist (OT) is commonly cited as the gold standard; however it is considered that the process used in Australia would benefit from improved standardisation. Also, there is insufficient evidence about the role of OTs in driving rehabilitation with research to date focusing on off-road retraining which is not task specific. Driving Occupational Therapy Services have begun a trial use of the Perceive Recall Plan Perform (PRPP) method of task analysis in on-road assessment and intervention with clients who have cognitive changes post acquired brain injury (ABI).

Clients are being assessed using the driving clinic's standard off- and on-road methods of evaluation. To provide additional information,

PRPP stages one and two have also been incorporated into the on-road assessment to measure task mastery and application of cognitive strategies. Results from the PRPP assessment are used to guide recommendations about returning to driving and need for further intervention. Driving rehabilitation comprises of on-road driving practise with a Certified Driver OT using PRPP descriptors to provide systematic instructions. Following intervention, driving capacity can be re-measured using PRPP and the current standard tools.

Outcomes from intervention are supporting continued use of PRPP in on-road assessment and rehabilitation. Current methods of assessment and tuition do not provide the best support for clients with complex cognitive impairments to return to driving compared with other occupational roles such as work. The PRPP system is applicable to analyse the task of driving at a behavioural and cognitive level. It has the potential to enhance interventions used by OTs

completing on-road driver rehabilitation with clients who have a variety of cognitive impairments.

On-road rehabilitation is an emerging area for OTs working with clients who have complex cognitive impairments and PRPP has been found to add value to this process with the case studies completed during this project thus far. OTs have a unique role in providing driving rehabilitation as with other activities of daily living. To ensure that skills are applied to the task of driving, parts of driving rehabilitation needs to be completed during the actual task and on-road in the driving environment.

Driving Occupational Therapy Services have successfully applied PRPP to the driving assessment and rehabilitation of clients post ABI with various cognitive impairments, and are achieving good outcomes with these clients. Chris Pearce and Gill Smith presented outcomes from the initial trial period at the WA Occupational Therapy Association conference in 2012 and intend to present an update at the Research Symposium in October 2013.

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