



# Application Form: Assistance Dogs Independent Public Access Test Assessor

Amendments to the *Dog Act 1976* (the Act) came into effect on 1 November 2013. The amendments expanded the special provisions for guide dogs to recognise other types of assistance dogs which are commonly used by people with a disability.

To be recognised as an assistance dog under section 8 of the Act, all dogs must pass a Behavioural Obedience Assessment (BOA) for a probationary six-month and/or a Public Access Test (PAT) before they can be certified to access public places and public passenger vehicles. This ensures that all dogs certified under the legislation have been trained to the highest standard and will behave appropriately.

The Dog Regulations 2013 prescribe that people with assistance dogs trained by recognised organisations are granted public access rights, including being allowed to travel on public transport. A card is issued with a photograph of the assistance dog and its owner to facilitate access.

The Director General of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) may grant the same access rights for other assistance dogs, including privately trained assistance dogs.

Only recognised organisations and approved independent public access test assessors will be able to certify that an assistance dog or an assistance dog in training meets the necessary standards to be allowed on public transport and in public places.

**Recognised organisations**

The following are recognised organisations:

* Assistance Dogs Australia;
* Guide Dogs WA (owned and operated by EverAbility Group Limited)
* Lions Hearing Dogs;
* Seeing Eye Dogs Australia; and
* Royal Guide Dogs Association of Australia and affiliated bodies.

**Independent Assessors**

Persons seeking approval as independent PAT assessors must demonstrate that they are capable of conducting the public access test to a high standard. Applicants must provide:

* a CV demonstrating extensive history of working with and/or training assistance dogs;
* evidence of previously administered PAT tests conducted by the applicant (if applicable);
* any qualifications relating to working with or training assistance dogs;
* if the applicant has previously worked with a recognised organisation, a written statement from the organisation confirming the applicant’s ability to conduct the public access test (if applicable); and
* any additional information as may be required by the DLGSC.

Applicants must be based in Western Australia.

It is expected that assessors will conduct an independent public access test for any dog that is subject to a departmental assistance dog application.

Applicants can be employed by an assistance dog training organisation however must undertake assessments for dogs trained privately or through other organisations.

Any person approved as an assessor will be responsible for their own fee structure in administering the test and scheduling each test with their client.

The DLGSC takes no responsibility for the actions of an assistance animal approved as a result of a PAT by an independent PAT assessor.

Applications should be made to:

Director General
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
PO Box 8349
Perth Business Centre WA 6849

or

by email at legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Should you require assistance with completing this form, please telephone DLGSC on (08) 6551 7300 or toll free for country callers on 1800 634 541 or by
email at legislation@dlgsc.wa.gov.au. For alternative formats and more information, please visit the DLGSC’s website at [www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au).

For a Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) telephone 13 14 50.

## Section 1 – Your contact details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Given names: | [Click here to enter text.] |
| Surname: | [Click here to enter text.] |
| Street or postal address: | [Click here to enter text.] |
| Business name(if applicable) | [Click here to enter text.] |
| Telephone: | Home | [Enter text.] | Mobile | [Enter text.] |
| Business | [Click here to enter text.] |
| Email address: | [Click here to enter text.] |

## Section 2 – Qualifications and experience

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| --- |
| Please provide a detailed description of your qualifications, knowledge and experience in dealing with dogs and assistance dogs. It is expected that applicants have extensive experience working with and/or training assistance dogs.(Please attach any additional documentation necessary to confirm the statements below).  |
| [Click here to enter text.] |

## Section 3 – Photographs

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| Please note: Individuals seeking to become approved PAT assessors must supply an electronic photograph of themselves which will be included on the Public Access Test Assessor Identity Card.**Photograph specifications:**Attach one colour, passport-quality photograph of the applicant. The photograph must:* clearly show the face, head and top of the shoulders of the applicant
* show the applicant looking directly at the camera
* have been taken no more than 6 months before the date of this application
* show skin tones and have appropriate brightness and contrast
* not contain a flash reflection or red eye effect

Only the person whose photograph and details appear on the Independent PAT Assessor Identity Card can use the card and must have it available for inspection by a person exercising control of a public place or public passenger vehicle. |

## Section 4 – Conduct

I understand that the DLGSC will investigate any complaints regarding my conduct as a public access test assessor. If the DLGSC finds that I have behaved unfairly, unethically or to a standard not befitting the DLGSC I will be removed from the DLGSC’s registry of assessors and will be unable to conduct public access tests.

[ ]  Please tick to confirm you understand and accept the above statement.

## Section 5 – Declaration

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided is true and correct.

Signature: Date: