

# Fact sheet

## Information for Health Professionals



### What is the Companion Card?

The Companion Card program is a not for profit program funded by the NSW Government.

A Companion Card is for people with significant and permanent disability that need a carer with them at all times to participate in community based activities and venues.

The card itself is the size of a credit card, with the name and a photo of the holder – who is the person with disability. When the holder buys a ticket for themselves at participating venues and facilities, their companion will get free entry.

Companion Cards are not means tested and those assessed as eligible have the card for life.

### Who is eligible to apply?

You may be eligible for a Companion Card if:

1. you are an Australian citizen or resident, and live in NSW; and
2. you are a person with a significant and permanent disability; and
3. you are unable to participate at most community venues or activities without attendant care support; and
4. aids and other technologies do not meet your attendant care needs; and
5. your need for this level of attendant care will be life-long.

### What information do I need to provide or verify about the applicant?

You are required to:

- » verify that the applicant has a significant and permanent disability and will always require attendant care at most community venues and activities
- » verify that the photographs attached to the application are photographs of the applicant
- » provide information about the lifelong attendant care required by the applicant in the areas of mobility, communication, self care and/or planning
- » provide details about the treatment and recovery available to the applicant and why they will require attendant care support for the rest of their life.

### Points to consider before verifying applications

Not all people with significant and permanent disability are eligible for a Companion Card and the completion of an application form does not guarantee a card will be issued.

To assist NSW Companion Card in assessing applications:

- » Ensure sufficient information is provided on the application form about the day to day impact of the disability and the need for significant attendant care support in the areas of mobility, communication, self care and/or planning
- » Only verify and sign the application form where you believe that the applicant meets **all** of the eligibility criteria.
- » Contact NSW Companion Card if you need further information about the eligibility criteria or any other aspects of the Companion Card program.
- » Provide your contact details so that NSW Companion Card can contact you if further information about an applicant is required.



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