

Companion Card

A new approach to ticketing for people with a disability who require a companion.

The Companion Card program is a practical way to increase opportunities for people with a disability to participate in the social and recreational life of their community.

What is a Companion Card?

The ACT Companion Card program is an initiative funded by the ACT Government, administered by the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS). The Companion Card is designed for people with a disability who have a lifelong need for attendant care support to take part in activities and visit venues in the community

Cardholders present their card when booking or purchasing a ticket from participating businesses. These businesses will recognise the Companion Card and issue the cardholder with a second ticket for their companion at no charge.

The Companion Card improves social and recreational opportunities for people with a disability and provides businesses with a practical way to meet some of their obligations under anti-discrimination and human rights legislation.

The program is being implemented nationally. Cardholders are entitled to use their card at affiliated venues and activities in any participating state or territory.

Who is eligible for the card?

An ACT Companion Card is only issued to applicants who demonstrate they:

- lawfully reside in the ACT
- have a disability
- are unable to participate at most community venues or activities without attendant care support
- need, or are likely to need, lifelong attendant care support.

What is attendant care support?

Attendant care support includes significant assistance with mobility, communication, self-care or learning, where the use of aids, equipment or alternative strategies do not enable the person to carry out these tasks independently.

The Companion Card is not provided to people who only require reassurance, social company or encouragement.

How to apply for a card

Applicants should complete the cardholder application form. Detailed information about the eligibility criteria and the application process is provided in the cardholder handbook.

What is a business affiliate?

Business affiliates are businesses, organisations, events or activities that officially register participate in the Companion Card program.

Affiliates agree to issue the Companion Cardholder with a companion ticket for his/her attendant carer at no charge.

Registered business affiliates are listed on the Companion Card website. This provides an easy way for cardholders to locate venues and activities where the card is accepted.

Any business or organisation that charges an admission or participation fee for some or all products and services is encouraged to join.

Affiliation with the Companion Card program is free.

Any costs associated with providing a companion ticket are the responsibility of the business affiliate.

Benefits of business affiliation

- provides a simple, consistent and reliable method of identifying people with a disability who require attendant care support to participate at venues and activities
- assists organisations to meet some of their obligations under anti-discrimination laws
- is an opportunity for businesses to demonstrate their commitment to social inclusion and community access for people with a disability and their carers

How to affiliate

Businesses and organisations register with the program by completing the industry application form. Affiliates will receive a detailed handbook, ongoing support and information.

More information

Further information, handbooks and application forms are available from:

ACT Companion Card Program

Phone: (02) 6207 1086

TTY: (02) 6205 0888

Email: companioncard@act.gov.au

www.companioncard.act.gov.au

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