



ACT Companion Card Program

What is it?

The Companion Card is a credit-card sized photo ID card issued to people with a disability who require lifelong attendant care support from a companion to participate at venues and activities.

Cardholders present their card when booking or purchasing a ticket from a participating business. 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 Companion Card Program currently operates in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia.

Who will be eligible?

The Companion Card is not for everyone with a disability. An ACT Companion Card will only be issued to applicants who can demonstrate that they:

- lawfully reside in the ACT; and
- have a permanent disability; and
- are unable to participate at most community venues or activities without attendant care support; and
- 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 decision-making, where the use of aids, equipment or alternative strategies do not enable the person to carry out these tasks independently. The Companion Card will not be provided to people who only require reassurance, social company or encouragement.

What are we doing?

The official website for the Act Companion Card Program has been launched at <http://www.companioncard.act.gov.au/>

In addition to providing important information on the ACT Companion Card Program, the website provides the opportunity for people to register their interest in receiving an information pack and application form, which will be available in September 2009.

It is anticipated that the ACT Companion Card program will commence accepting applications for the card in September 2009.

ACT Companion Card Program



Announcing the ACT Companion Card. Lois Ford (Disability ACT), Trevor Robinson (Disability Advisory Council), Minister Hargreaves MLA, Chris Faulks (Canberra Business Council & BLITS) and Frank Crews (BLITS)

Who can I contact for more information

For further information please contact Disability ACT Information Service on 6207 1086 or visit <http://www.companioncard.act.gov.au/>