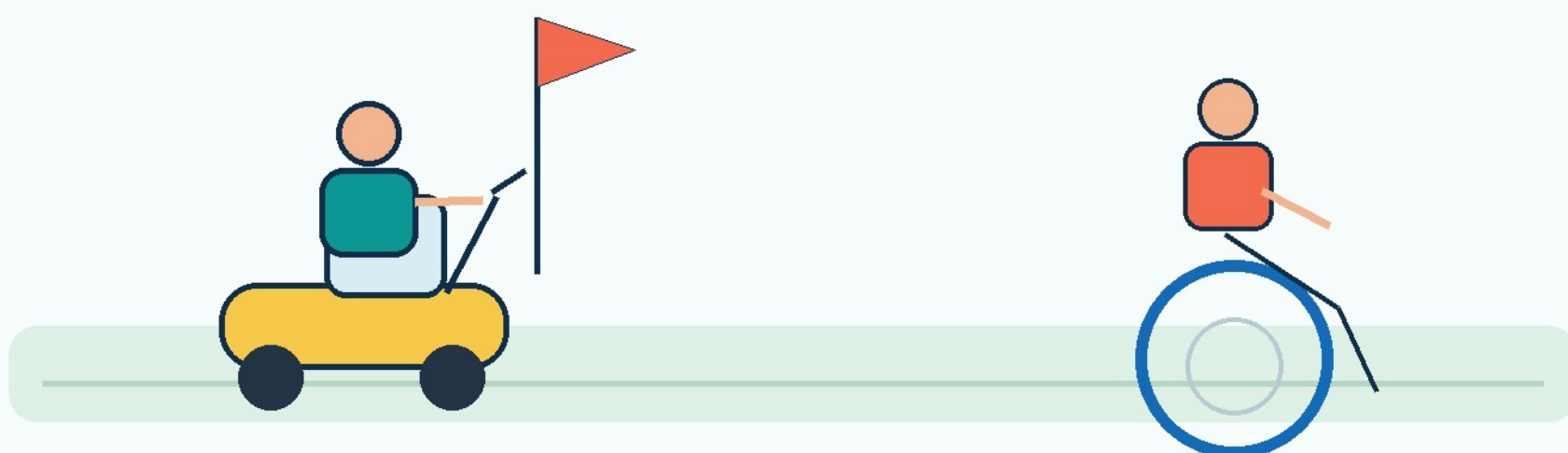


# Stay Safe

## Scooter and wheelchair safety booklet

A practical guide for using motorised scooters and wheelchairs more safely in the community.

### Stay safe in the community



### Before every trip

Charge your battery, check tyres and controls, carry a phone, be visible and plan a quieter route where possible.

Designed for easy reading and printing by Motion Caring.



# What is inside

A quick guide to the redesigned scooter and wheelchair safety pages.

**01** Before heading off

**02** Be safe and be seen

**03** Plan a safe route

**04** Sharing the footpath

**05** Crossing roads safely

**06** Road rules

**07** Emergency breakdown service

**08** Crossing railway lines

**09** Public transport

**10** Self-assessment checklist

**11** Assessing safety and driving ability

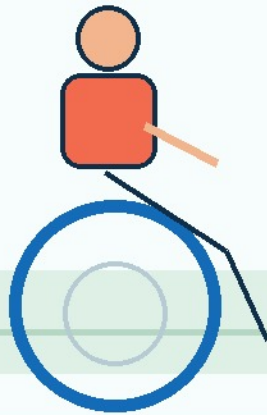
**12** Final things to remember



## Before heading off

A few simple checks can make each trip safer and easier.

### Check skills and confidence



### Key points

- Make sure batteries are fully charged and you know how long they usually last.
- Check tyre pressure, brakes, controls and whether the seat is locked before moving.
- Avoid riding if medication, alcohol, fatigue or illness may affect judgement.
- Use sun protection, carry water and take a charged mobile phone.
- Think about mirrors if turning your head is difficult.



### Good to know

If you are unsure about maintenance, ask a mobility supplier or trusted technician to check the scooter or wheelchair.



# Be safe and be seen

Scooters and wheelchairs sit lower than walking pedestrians, so visibility matters.



Be seen



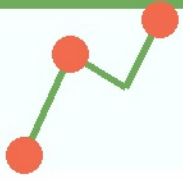
## Key points

- Wear bright clothing or a high-visibility vest.
- Attach a fluorescent orange visibility flag at a clear height.
- Use lights if fitted, and consider bicycle lights for daytime visibility.
- Add reflectors or reflective tape to the front, back, sides and wheels.
- Take extra care at dusk, at night and in poor weather.



## Good to know

Be safe. Be seen. Make it easy for drivers and pedestrians to notice you.

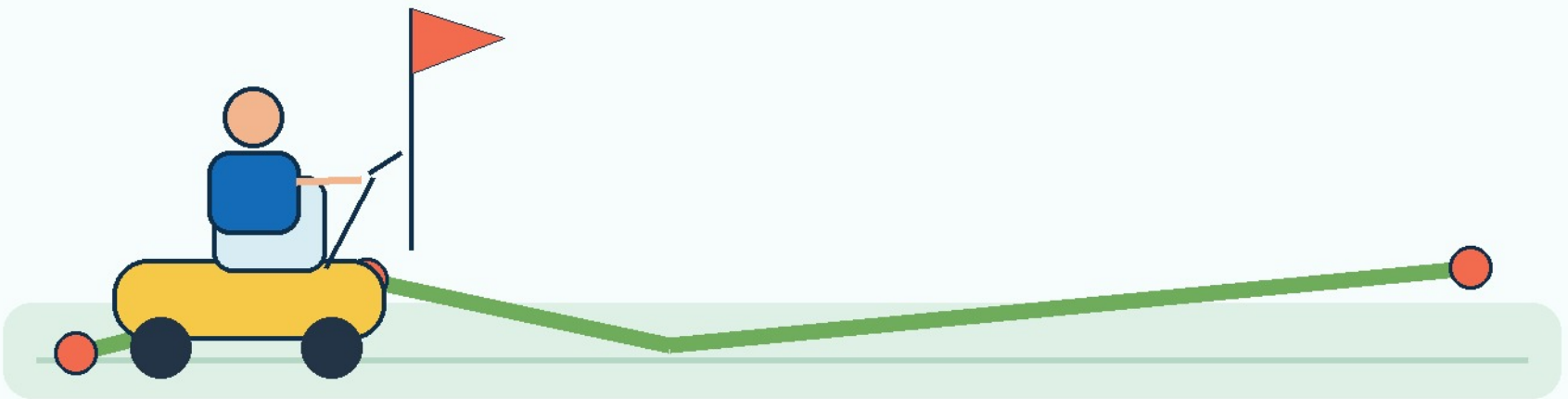


# Plan a safe route

Choose a route that reduces traffic, hazards and unnecessary crossings.



## Choose quieter paths



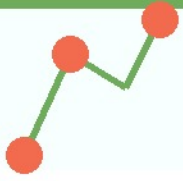
## Key points

- Use footpaths or off-road paths whenever possible.
- Avoid busy roads, steep hills, rough edges and sharp turns.
- Use quieter streets and crossings with good visibility.
- Watch for cars entering and leaving driveways.
- Ask council about difficult or unsafe paths in your area.



## Good to know

The easiest route is not always the safest. Plan for shade, toilets, rests and smooth paths.

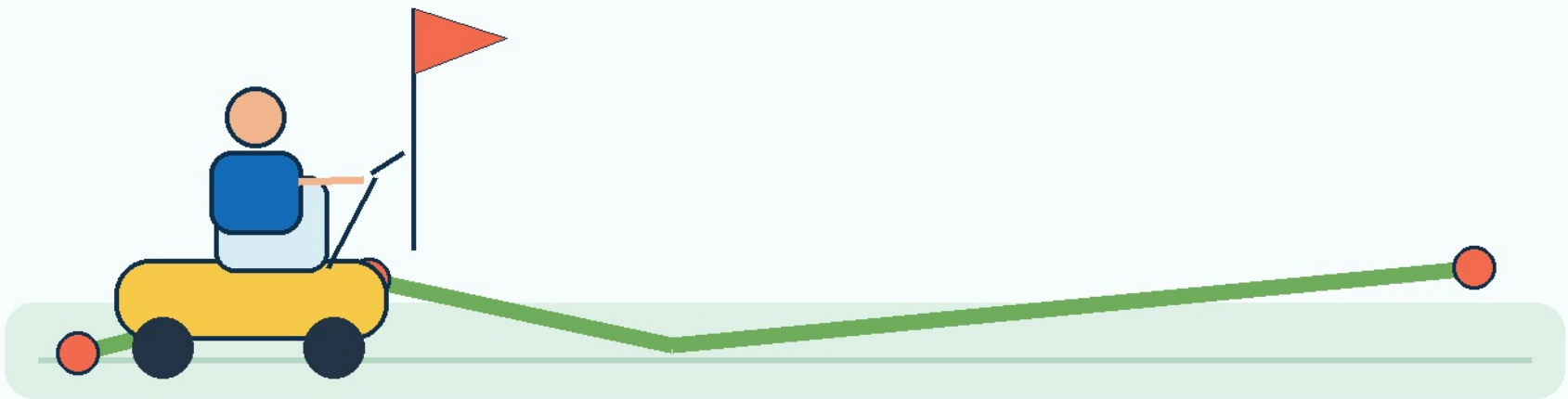


# Plan a safe route continued

Extra route planning helps avoid sudden hazards.

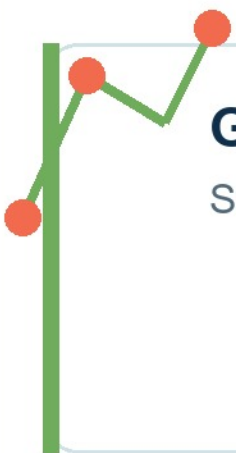


## Choose quieter paths



## Key points

- Slow down if the surface is rough or uneven.
- Do not travel up to the rear of parked cars in case they reverse.
- Go straight up or down ramps and kerbs, not across them at an angle.
- Only cross where there are suitable pedestrian facilities.
- Always turn the key off or hit the off button when getting on or off.



## Good to know

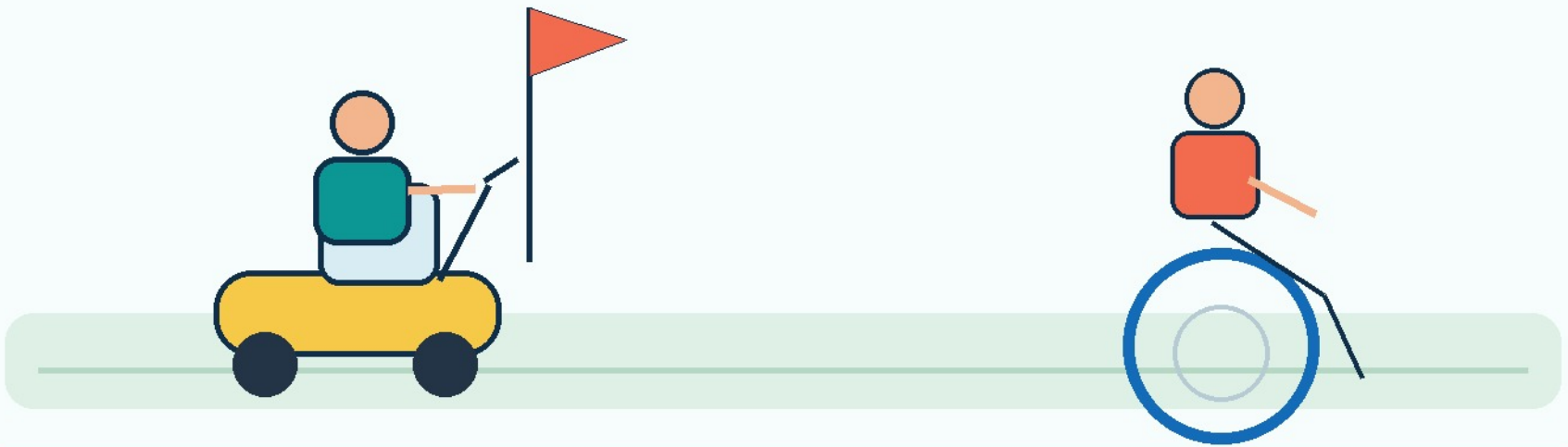
Stop only where you are clear of entrances, gateways and driveways.



# Sharing the footpath

Scooter and wheelchair users are pedestrians, so footpath courtesy is important.

## Stay safe in the community



## Key points

- Travel on the left side of the footpath where possible.
- Move at a walking pace when near other pedestrians.
- Warn people before turning or passing if needed.
- Do not change direction suddenly. Check behind first.
- Be careful with headphones because they can reduce awareness.



## Good to know

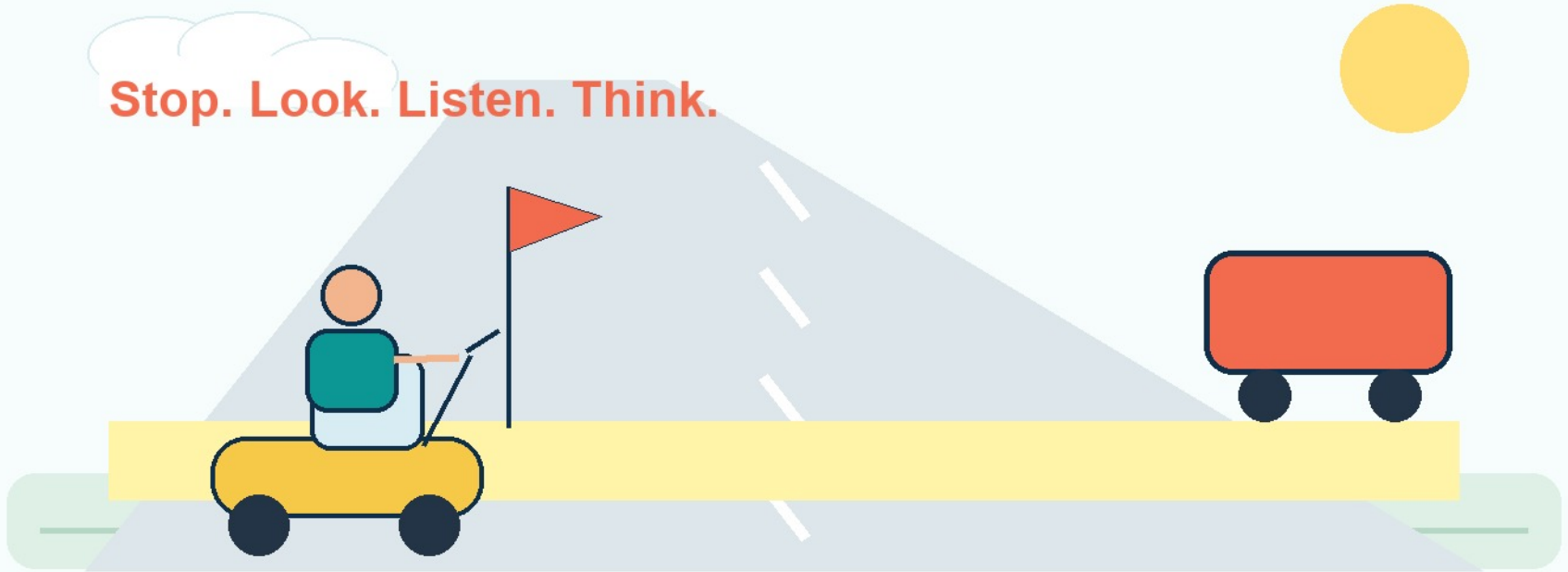
Slow, steady and predictable movement helps everyone share public spaces safely.



# Crossing roads safely

Crossings and intersections are high-risk places. Take your time.

**Stop. Look. Listen. Think.**



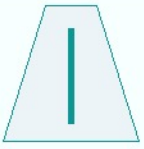
## Key points

- Cross at marked crossings where available and choose the shortest direct route.
- Stop close to the kerb before crossing and look in all directions.
- Listen for traffic you may not be able to see.
- Wait until there is enough time to cross safely.
- Do not assume drivers will stop, even when you have right of way.



## Good to know

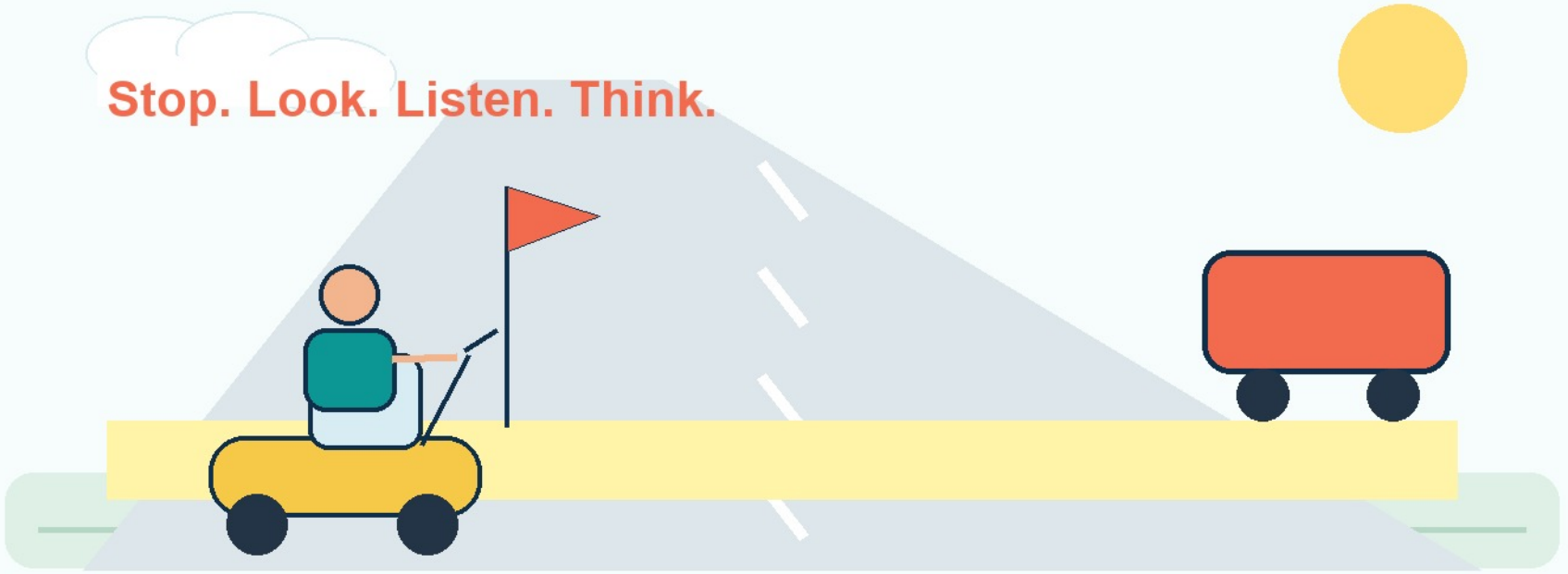
Use stop, look, listen and think every time you cross.



# Road rules

Motorised scooter and wheelchair users need to travel with pedestrian care.

**Stop. Look. Listen. Think.**



## Key points

- Use available crossings and cross by the shortest direct route.
- Do not remain on a pedestrian crossing longer than necessary.
- Do not stop on footpaths or roads in a way that blocks others.
- Stay as close as possible to either side if you must travel on the road.
- Regulate your speed to nearby pedestrians and avoid sudden movements.



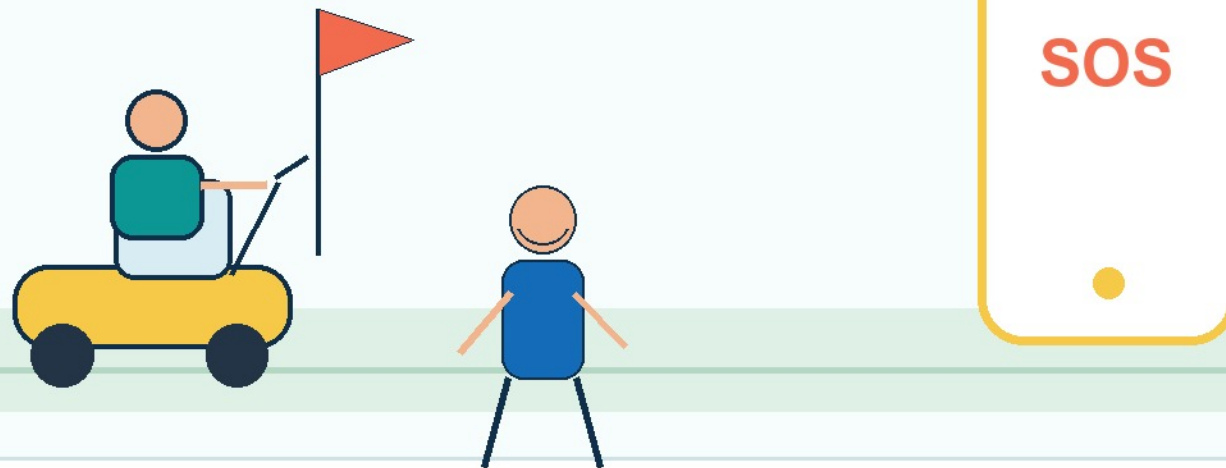
## Good to know

Your speed should be safe for the people and conditions around you.

# Emergency breakdown service

Have a plan if your scooter or wheelchair breaks down away from home.

## Know who to call



## Key points

- Keep emergency contact numbers with you.
- If possible, move to a safe location and stay visible.
- Ask for help if you cannot move your equipment safely.
- Know who can collect you or arrange alternative transport.
- Keep local mobility supplier details somewhere easy to find.

## Good to know

A simple breakdown plan can prevent panic and help you get home safely.



## Crossing railway lines

Only cross rail lines at marked crossings and avoid rushing.

Only cross marked crossings



### Key points

- Look for flashing lights and check whether gates or barriers are closing.
- Listen for warning bells and trains.
- Even if there are no warning sounds, check both directions.
- Cross slowly and in a straight line when you are sure the tracks are clear.
- If wheels become trapped, seek assistance immediately.



### Good to know

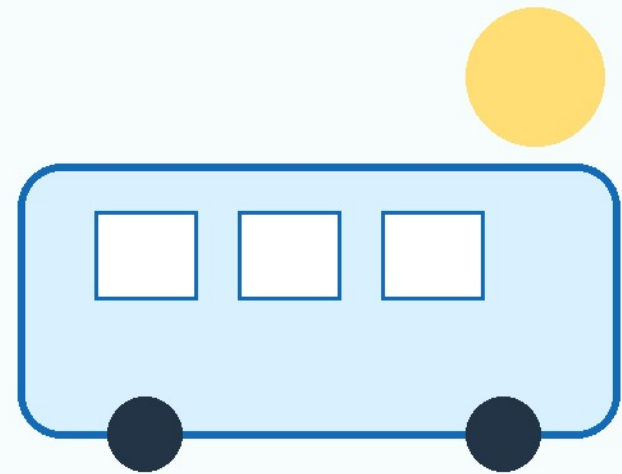
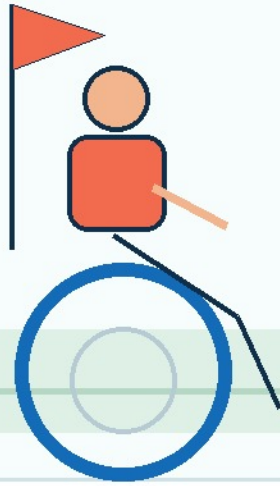
Do not turn around on rail tracks. Continue forward when it is safe to do so.



# Public transport

Plan ahead before using trains, buses, ferries or taxis.

## Plan ahead



## Key points

- Contact the transport operator ahead of time where possible.
- Ask about ramps, boarding points and access requirements.
- Know your scooter or wheelchair size and weight if asked.
- Make sure brakes work well before travelling.
- If you need attendant care, organise a companion.



## Good to know

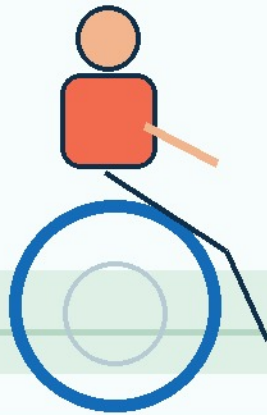
Arrive early and allow extra time for boarding, seating and getting off safely.



# Self-assessment guide

Use these questions to decide whether extra support or review may help.

## Check skills and confidence



## Key points

- Can I operate the controls easily and safely?
- Can I judge distance, obstacles and moving traffic?
- Can I remember safety steps and react quickly if needed?
- Can I stay calm in busy or difficult situations?
- Could medication or health changes affect safe use?



## Good to know

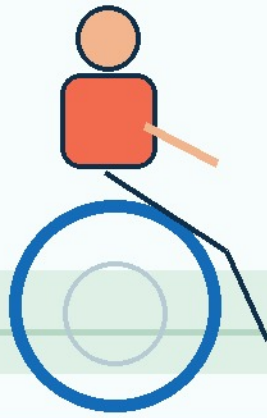
If you answer no to important questions, talk with an occupational therapist, physiotherapist or GP.



# Checklist: body and vision

Physical ability and vision can change over time.

## Check skills and confidence



## Key points

- Can I steer and turn safely, even in tight spaces?
- Can I maintain balance on uneven surfaces or gentle inclines?
- Can I sit comfortably for longer trips?
- Can I notice obstacles in all fields of vision?
- Can I see moving objects before they are close?



## Good to know

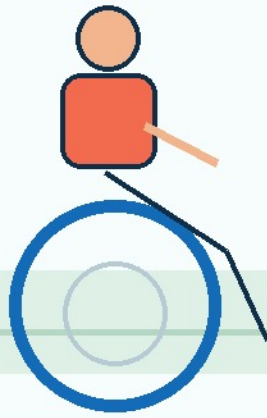
Review your skills regularly, especially after illness, falls or changes in mobility.



# Checklist: thinking and judgement

Safe travel also depends on attention, memory and decision-making.

## Check skills and confidence



## Key points

- Can I remember safety procedures and road rules?
- Can I concentrate for longer periods?
- Can I react quickly if I need to stop or turn?
- Can I make good judgements about my safety and others?
- Am I taking any medication that could affect safe use?



## Good to know

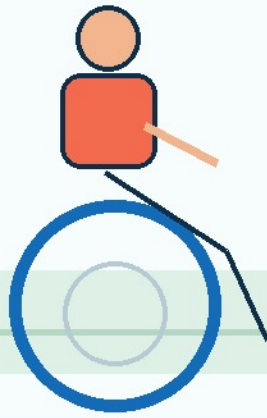
Ask for support if you feel unsure, distracted or less confident than usual.



# Assessing safety and ability

Other people can help you decide whether your equipment is still suitable.

## Check skills and confidence



## Key points

- Ask your doctor, occupational therapist or physiotherapist for advice.
- Family members or support workers may notice changes in your safety.
- Equipment modifications may help, but should suit your abilities.
- A safe scooter or wheelchair may still require safe judgement.
- Know the relevant road and transport requirements in your state.



## Good to know

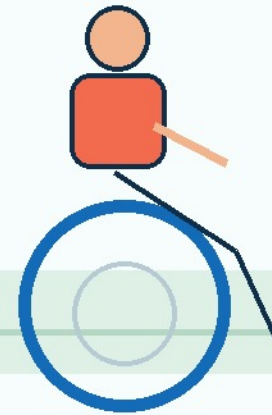
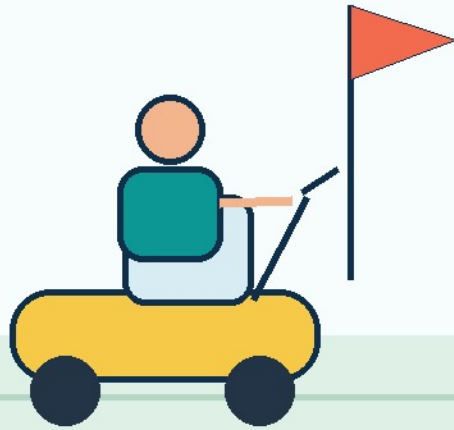
The safest option is the one that matches your current health, confidence and community needs.



## Remember

Seven simple reminders for safer community travel.

### Stay safe in the community



### Key points

- Monitor your driving skills and ask for help if concerned.
- Use a flag and wear bright clothing to be more visible.
- Choose the safest and quietest route.
- Travel at a speed that lets you stop quickly.
- Before crossing, stop, look, listen and think.
- On footpaths, match the speed of nearby pedestrians.
- Do not assume cars will stop for you.



### Good to know

Small habits make a big difference when using scooters and wheelchairs in the community.