



# Transitional Assistance Payment Phase 2 Scheme Frequently Asked Questions July 2018

## Transitional Assistance Payment Scheme re-opened

The Transitional Assistance Payment Phase 2 (TAP-P2) Scheme has opened for applications.

The NSW Government allocated up to \$98 million in transitional assistance funds to assist the holders of eligible taxi licences adjust to the point to point transport industry changes. A payment of \$20,000 for each licence held in the same name or names, up to a maximum of \$40,000 for two licences held in the same name or names, was available for eligible licence holders. The Transitional Assistance Payment (TAP) Scheme originally opened for applications from 14 July 2016 until 13 January 2017, with no further applications accepted after 13 April 2017.

## Why has the Scheme re-opened?

The Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Assistance Panel (the Panel), established to oversee the distribution of the NSW Government's \$250 million industry adjustment assistance package, recommended that some categories of eligible taxi licence holders who did not receive a TAP should be able to apply for an equivalent TAP.

The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, the Hon Andrew Constance, MP approved the Panel's recommendations and the remaining funds from the TAP Scheme will be used for a second round of payments under a Transitional Assistance Payment Phase 2 (TAP-P2) Scheme.

## When will applications open?

Applications for the TAP-P2 Scheme opened for three (3) months on Monday, 2 July 2018 and will close on Monday, 1 October 2018. Late applications will not be accepted. Applications must be submitted by manual application during the application period.

## Who can apply?

Applications are open to the following groups of eligible taxi licence holders:

- eligible taxi licence holders who were declined a TAP based on the requirements of the Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Regulation 2016 and the Terms and Conditions for a Transitional Assistance Payment, (that is, beneficiaries under a will and transfers as a result of Family Law Court Consent Orders);
- eligible taxi licence holders who did not make an application when the Scheme was originally open;
- eligible taxi licence holders who received a TAP for one eligible licence and may have been entitled to make an application for a second eligible taxi licence held in the same name or names but did not do so; and
- eligible taxi licence holders who were declined because their application was submitted after the closing date.

To be eligible for a TAP-P2 you must also have held the licence in the same name or names as at **1 July 2015** and continuously up until **13 January 2017** and the licence must be a licence for which a TAP has not already been made.

You may also be eligible to apply under the TAP-P2 Scheme for a payment if you operated a registered training school which included taxi training courses accredited by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) as at 18 December 2015. The amount of transitional assistance which may be payable to the owner of an eligible registered training organisation is to be determined by TfNSW in accordance with the guidelines set by the Panel.

If you are applying as a registered training school you will need to complete the Registered Training Organisations manual application form.

## **Would I be eligible for a payment?**

Only eligible taxi licence holders identified above and registered training organisations which operated taxi training courses accredited by TfNSW are eligible to apply for TAP-P2.

If you were eligible to claim for the maximum of two eligible taxi licences and you only applied for one eligible taxi licence, you may be eligible to apply for the second eligible licence held by you. In this instance you would still need to meet eligibility criteria applicable at the time of the first TAP and you must have held the licence in the same name or names as at 1 July 2015 and continuously until 13 January 2017.

If you have received a TAP for an eligible taxi licence, or the maximum payment for two eligible taxi licences, you cannot apply for TAP-P2.

If you received the maximum payment for two eligible taxi licences, you cannot apply for TAP-P2 for any other taxi licences you held at the same time and for which you did not receive a payment.

If an eligible taxi licence or licences held by you for which you did not claim a TAP because you received the maximum payment and that licence/s has since been transferred to another name or names, a TAP-P2 cannot be claimed for that licence or licences.

An eligible taxi licence which has since been transferred and for which a TAP has already been paid is not eligible for a TAP-P2.

An eligible taxi licence for which a TAP has previously been paid and which has since been transferred to a beneficiary under a will or as the result of consent orders is not eligible for a TAP-P2.

## **How do I apply?**

You must apply by manual application.

To request a manual application, please email [taxiassistance@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:taxiassistance@transport.nsw.gov.au).

Alternatively, you can contact Transport for NSW on (02) 8265 7089 to request a manual application form which will be posted to your nominated postal address.

Please retain a copy of your application and the certified supporting documents, as well as evidence that you posted the application (for example, registered post/express post receipts).

## What documents do I need to submit with my application?

Detailed information about the application process and the required documentation is available at <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/point-to-point-industry-assistance>.

Please note that all supporting documentation must be certified by an Australian Legal Practitioner (Barrister or Solicitor) or a Justice of the Peace (JP) (registration number should be included).

If you are an eligible taxi licence holder you will need to provide the following certified documents with a completed and witnessed manual application form:

- 100 points of Proof of Identity documents (a fact sheet with details of POI documents is included in the application form);
- Taxi licence document;
- ASIC documents confirming the corporation, company, co-operative or network is a legal entity (if applicable);
- ASIC documents confirming that you are an office holder and therefore have the authority to apply for a payment on behalf of the entity (if applicable);
- Completed Joint Eligible Licence Holder Authority where a licence is held by more than one holder.
- Evidence that you have the authority to apply for TAP-P2 on behalf of another person, such as a Power of Attorney (if applicable).

If you are applying as an eligible registered training organisation you will need to provide the following certified documents with a completed and witnessed manual application form:

- 100 points of Proof of Identity documents (a fact sheet with details of POI documents is included in the application form) of the owner or authorised officer of the entity;
- ASIC documents confirming the registered training organisation is a legal entity (if applicable);
- ASIC documents confirming that you are an office holder and/or the owner of the registered training organisation and therefore have the authority to apply for a payment on behalf of the entity (if applicable);
- Financial statements for the registered training organisation for the past three financial years (FY2016/2017, FY2015/2016, FY2014/2015).

## Do I need to submit a new application form if my previous application was declined?

Unfortunately the previous application form is no longer valid.

You will need to complete a manual application form and provide certified copies of supporting documentation (as detailed above and in the application form) with the application form.

Application forms can be downloaded from the Transport for NSW website, requested by emailing [taxiassistance@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:taxiassistance@transport.nsw.gov.au) or by telephoning Transport for NSW on (02) 8265 7089 and requesting an application be posted to your nominated address.

## **What do I need to provide if I have changed my name?**

If you have changed your name you will need to provide certified copies of the relevant documents associated with your name change such as a marriage certificate or a change of name certificate. If you do not have the originals of these documents, they can be obtained by making an application to the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) (<http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/>).

Please note that service delivery times for certificates requested from BDM vary greatly depending on the type of certificate requested and the elected processing time. If you need to request a certificate from BDM it is strongly advised that you submit an application as soon as possible.

## **What do I need to provide if one of the joint holders of my eligible taxi licence is deceased?**

If you are one of the holders of an eligible jointly held taxi licence and one of the licence holders has passed away, you will need to provide certified copies of the death certificate, probate issued by the Supreme Court and the will of the deceased with your application.

## **Where do I get further information?**

Detailed information about the application process and the required documentation is available at <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/point-to-point-industry-assistance>.

## **Is there anyone who can help me with the application?**

Business advisors at Business Connect will be able to assist you during the application process. Please call 1300 134 359 or visit the website at [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/businessconnect](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/businessconnect) to obtain information about your nearest business advisor.

## **When will I get paid?**

Once your application has been processed, verified and approved, you will receive a notification that your application has been approved for payment. A cheque will be issued in the name recorded as the licence holder or licence holders and posted to your nominated address.

## **What assistance is available now?**

Industry participants can contact Business Connect, which is a NSW Government program funding Business Advisors to support the taxi and hire car industries. The advisors are independent of the NSW Government and are available to assist you with adapting to all the changes in the industry. Please call 1300 134 359 or visit their website at [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/businessconnect](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/businessconnect).

Alternatively, applicants can approach the Financial Counsellors Association of NSW on 1300 914 408 or visit their website at <http://www.fcan.com.au/directory/>. Financial Counselling services are free, independent, confidential and multilingual assistance can be arranged.

## Will my payment be taxed?

The Australian Taxation Office deemed that the Transitional Assistance Payment is income support and as such is treated as income for tax purposes.

## Will my payment impact on my pension?

TfNSW was successful in obtaining a ruling from the Department of Social Services that the TAP is an exempt lump sum payment for the purposes of the social security income test. (Social Security Exempt Lump Sum – Taxi Reform Transitional Assistance Payment Determination 2016). <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L01977>

This exemption still applies for TAP-P2.