

# Companion Card NSW

## Frequently Asked Questions

Promoting the rights of people with disability, who require a companion,  
to fair ticketing at events and venues

Free call 1800 893 044

or

email [companioncard@nds.org.au](mailto:companioncard@nds.org.au)

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### **What is the Companion Card?**

The Companion Card allows people with a severe and profound disability, who require attendant care at events and venues, to participate without having to pay for a second ticket for their attendant at affiliated organisations. Companion Cards will not be issued in the name of a companion or carer – a card will only be issued in the name of the person who has a life-long disability.

### **Are all people with a disability eligible for a Companion Card?**

The Companion Card is not for everyone with a disability. It is for people with a life-long, severe or profound and permanent disability who are unable to participate in most community activities without attendant care support.

### **What is attendant care support?**

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

The Companion Card is only provided to people if their level of support is life-long and they meet all of the eligibility criteria.

### **What does attendant care support not include?**

Attendant care support does not include assisting people who require social support, assurance, supervision or encouragement.

The Companion Card has been developed to allow people with a significant and permanent disability, who require attendant care support for the rest of their lives, to participate in community activities and events without discrimination.

## **What are the eligibility criteria?**

- you are a resident of NSW
- you have a significant and permanent disability
- you are unable to participate in most community-based activities without significant assistance with mobility, communication, self care, planning and the use of aids and other technologies does not meet those needs
- your level of support is life-long

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

## **If someone's need for attendant care is not life-long, is there a temporary card?**

The Companion Card can only be issued to people with a permanent disability that require life-long attendant care support.

## **If someone has a serious injury that shows signs of improvement, are they eligible?**

If the applicant may become independent in the future as a result of treatment, management, training, recovery or developmental improvements they are ineligible for a Companion Card.

## **Can children apply?**

Children may apply for the Companion Card however they must demonstrate a life-long need for attendant care support. In the case of children, it is often difficult to determine their potential. As Companion Cards are given for life, no card can be approved before their life-long potential can be verified. As with all applications, children are assessed case by case and cards are not provided for supervision, social support or reassurance alone.

## **How do I apply for a Companion Card?**

To request an application form please call Free Call 1800 893 044 during business hours or email your request to [companioncard@nds.org.au](mailto:companioncard@nds.org.au)

## **How can I get more information about the Companion Card?**

Please call Free Call 1800 893 044 during business hours to speak to a Companion Card Information Officer.