

Diabetes and Driving: A Survey of Australian Drivers

QUT Ethics Approval Number 10517

Research team

Principal Researchers:	Mr Destaye Alemu Associate Professor Alex Black	PhD Student Principal Supervisor
Associate Researchers:	Professor Joanne Wood Associate Professor Katie Edwards	Associate Supervisor Associate Supervisor

**School of Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Health
Queensland University of Technology (QUT)**

Why is the study being conducted?

This project is part of a PhD study conducted by Destaye Alemu. Diabetes can affect vision, nerve function, and cognitive ability, which may make driving more difficult and increase safety risk. However, little is known about the challenges that drivers with diabetes face in their everyday driving. This study will investigate these challenges and examine how demographic and diabetes-related factors are associated with driving experiences.

You are invited to participate in this research project if you are 18 years or older, have diabetes, have a valid driver licence and have driven at least once in the last six months.

What does participation involve?

Before you participate, you will be asked three screening questions to ascertain whether you are eligible for the study.

Once you are deemed eligible, you will be asked to complete a survey that will take about 15 minutes. Your participation is voluntary, and you may skip any questions you prefer not to answer.

The survey includes questions such as:

- What type of diabetes have you been diagnosed with?
- How much difficulty do you, or would you have, seeing the road in rain or poor weather when driving at night? (response from no difficulty to extreme difficulty)
- Do you undergo a periodic medical review to maintain your driving licence? (response yes/no)
- Have you been diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy (eye damage caused by diabetes)?

What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?

There are no direct or immediate personal benefits. However, the information collected will contribute to a better understanding of driving experiences among people with diabetes. You can request a summary of the study outcomes by providing your email address after completing the survey, using a separate link provided at the end of the survey.

To recognise your time and contribution, you will be invited to enter a prize draw for the chance to win one of six 50 AUD Coles/Myer e-gift cards upon completion of the survey. If you indicate your interest, a separate link will be displayed directing you to a short form where you can enter your email address. This information is collected independently from your survey responses to maintain confidentiality and prevent any link between your identity and your survey responses. No postal address will be collected.

Please note the opening date for entries is 10 July 2026, and the closing date for entries will be when data collection is completed, 28 February 2027. The Terms and Conditions of the prize draw can be located at:

survey.qut.edu.au/survey-data/67/67667/media/62/6254.pdf

What are the possible risks for me if I take part?

We do not anticipate any risks beyond the minor inconvenience of answering questions about your health and driving experiences. However, for some, participation in this study may be associated with some mild discomfort when discussing their health or perceived implications for driving licensing. Importantly, the data you provide will not influence your driving licence status in any way. If you feel uncomfortable answering any of the questions, you can choose not to answer them and continue the survey.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

All data will be anonymous, with no personally identifying information collected. Your responses will be stored securely and used only for research purposes. Your data may also be used in subsequent comparative studies. Contact details (email address) for the prize draw or for receiving a results summary will be collected and stored separately from your survey responses. Your survey responses and consent record will be stored securely for a minimum of fifteen years in accordance with QUT research data management requirements.

How do I give my consent to participate?

You will provide your consent to participate by ticking a box to confirm you have read and understood the participant information and that you consent to participate. Partially completed surveys may be included in the analysis

What if I have questions about the research project?

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact one of the listed researchers:

Destaye Alemu	destayeshiferaw.alemu@hdr.qut.edu.au	07 3138 6566
Alex Black	aa.black@qut.edu.au	

What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?

If you have a concern or complaint about the conduct of the study, or wish to discuss your rights as a participant with someone not directly involved, please contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on +617 3138 5123 or email humanethics@qut.edu.au.

Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep/print this sheet for your information.