# Dog Guide Refusal Penalties by State – June 2022

## Victoria

In Victoria, there is no general offence under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* for refusing access to a dog guide. There is, however, a penalty imposed on the driver of a commercial passenger vehicle for refusing to carry a dog guide (*Commercial Passenger Vehicle Industry Regulation 2018*). The maximum penalty is $1,817.

## New South Wales

In New South Wales, it is an offence under the *Companion Animals Act 1998* to (a) deny a handler accompanied by a dog guide entry to a building or public place or to public transport; and (b) impose an excess charge in relation to a dog guide. The maximum penalty for these offences is $1,500.

Separately, it is an offence under the *Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Regulation 2017* for the driver of a passenger vehicle to refuse to carry a dog guide. The maximum penalty for this offence is $1,100.

## Queensland

In Queensland, it is an offence under the *Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act 2009* to: (a) refuse a handler accompanied by a dog guide entry to a public place, or public passenger vehicle, or to service within that place; and (b) refuse to rent accommodation to a handler accompanied by a dog guide. The maximum penalty for these offences is $13,785.

Separately, it is an offence under the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2018* for the driver of a public passenger vehicle to refuse to carry a dog guide. The maximum penalty for this offence is $2,757.

## Western Australia

In Western Australia, there is no general offence under the *Dog Act 1976* for refusing access to a dog guide. There is however, a penalty imposed on the driver of a taxi for refusing to carry a dog guide *(Transport (Road Passenger Services) Regulation 2000*). The maximum penalty is $9,000.

## South Australia

In South Australia, it is an offence under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* to refuse a handler accompanied by a dog guide access to a public place or public passenger vehicle. The maximum penalty is $1,250.

## Australian Capital Territory

In the Australian Capital Territory, it is an offence under the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* to: (a) deny a handler accompanied by a dog guide access to a public place (which includes a public passenger vehicle); and (b) impose an excess charge in relation to a dog guide. The maximum penalty for these offences is $8,000.