

# Assistive Technology Loans Scheme Trial Guidelines

In partnership with the Australian  
Government Department of Health and  
Aged Care

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[www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/at-loans-scheme-trial](http://www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/at-loans-scheme-trial)



# Assistive Technology Loans Scheme Trial guidelines for clinicians

NSW Health is partnering with the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) to trial the delivery of an Assistive Technology (AT) Loans Scheme. For the trial period, only clients residing in South West Sydney and Riverina/Murray aged care planning regions are eligible. See [www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/at-loans-scheme-trial](http://www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/at-loans-scheme-trial) for full eligibility details.

## Assistive Technology prescription

- **Eligible prescribers:** it is the responsibility of the prescriber to ensure they have:
  - assessed the person,
  - are appropriately qualified,
  - have adequate experience, and
  - are prescribing products within their scope of practice.

Prescribers may be contacted by EnableNSW if additional clinical information is needed. If follow up is to be completed by another prescriber, include their details with the application. A care, fit and safety review must be completed to ensure the correct item has been delivered, appropriately set up and is suitable for the client's needs.

- **Before applying,** ensure
  - you have assessed the person and have chosen products based on their specific clinical needs,
  - the products are appropriate for the person's assessed level of function and long-term requirements (only one item per AT product type will be provided),
  - the products are the most cost-effective solution to improve independence and safety at home and,
  - you have referred to the [online catalogue](#) for details of products available.

## Assistive Technology categories

- Readily available products **must** be considered in the first instance - these products do not require a trial prior to applying. Items can be swapped by the prescriber upon review to another readily available item in the same category if not suitable or if needs change.
- Purchased on request products should be trialled before submitting an application - consider products available on the NSW Health contracts in the first instance.
- Pre-approval required products must be trialled - contact a clinical advisor for pre-approval prior to trialling options.
- If a product is not available in the catalogue, call and speak to an EnableNSW clinical advisor to discuss the specific clinical scenario.

## Assistive Technology not provided

- Companion beds
- Compression garments
- Continence products
- Home enteral nutrition products
- Footwear/orthotics
- Home modifications
- Household items
- Personal alarms/emergency response systems
- Recreation and rehabilitation AT
- Small aids, e.g. modified cutlery, universal cuffs, reaching aids
- Vehicle modifications

**READILY AVAILABLE**

Products below are only provided when multiple products are requested in an application

Item	Eligible prescribers	Additional Comments
Bath boards	Occupational Therapists (OT) Physiotherapists (PT) Registered Nurses (RN)	
Bed cradles		
Kitchen perching stools		
Kitchen trolleys		
Over toilet aids		
Raised toilet seats		
Rollator frames		
Shower chairs		
Shower stools		
Toilet surround frames		

**Other readily available standard sized products**

Item	Eligible prescribers	Additional Comments
4 wheeled walking frames	OT, PT, RN	
Bedside commodes		
Footstools/leg rests for height adjustable chairs		
Forearm support frames		
Height adjustable chairs – low back and high back		
Manual wheelchairs – self-propelling		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a non-standard size or additional accessories are required, discuss with a clinical advisor before applying</li> </ul>
Manual wheelchairs – tilt in space		
Manual wheelchairs – transit		
Mobile hoists and slings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yoke and pivot attachments</li> <li>General purpose and Care slings are available</li> <li>An additional ‘readily available’ sling can be provided if the person is incontinent, or it is unsafe to remove the sling for bathing and toileting</li> </ul>

Mobile shower commodes – self-propelling		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a non-standard size or additional accessories are required, discuss with a clinical advisor before applying</li> <li>• Ensure item is compatible with person’s home environment and existing equipment</li> </ul>
Mobile shower commodes – tilt in space		
Mobile shower commodes – transit		
Over bed tables		
Powered adjustable beds		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided to assist with transfers and/or positioning</li> <li>• King Single beds can be requested if Single beds are not clinically suitable</li> <li>• Companion beds are not provided</li> <li>• An environmental review for additional delivery considerations must have been completed. If applicable, prescribers must confirm that one-piece beds can be delivered to the home</li> <li>• Floor-line beds require pre-approval</li> </ul>
Powered adjustable beds - accessories		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The accessories must not impact the person’s safety or restrict their independence or voluntary movement</li> </ul>
Power wheelchairs (PWC) – off the shelf  Note: Prescriber must be present on delivery to conduct assessment of safety, suitability and correct set up		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off the shelf PWCs have integrated backrests and some adjustability – options are: Q400M (SKUID: 554319 [18 inches seat width]) and Merits Vector (SKUID: 553775 [20 inches seat width]). For clients with bariatric needs, the Pride Quantum Q1450 Bariatric PWC (front-wheel drive) is available in x2 sizes (SKUID: 554342 [28 inches seat width] and SKUID: 554361 [32 inches seat width])</li> <li>• A readily available pressure care cushion should be chosen</li> <li>• For community access only, off the shelf PWCs will be provided</li> <li>• For full-time wheelchair users – a customised PWC with tilt and seating may be considered – see pre-approval guidelines</li> </ul> <p>Note: Portable (pull apart or automatic folding/collapsible) travel electric scooters and wheelchairs are excluded</p>
Pressure care cushions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a non-standard size or configuration is required, discuss with a clinical advisor before applying</li> </ul>
Pressure care mattresses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A validated pressure care assessment is recommended to guide selection</li> <li>• Mattress replacement systems will only be provided for powered adjustable beds</li> <li>• Additional clinical justification may be required for high-cost products</li> <li>• Products can be swapped to other readily available options as a person’s needs change</li> </ul>
Slide boards		
Swivel bathers		
Toilet thrones		
Transfer aids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes sit-to-stand transfer aids and standing hoists</li> </ul>	
Transfer benches		

**PURCHASED ON REQUEST**

These products will be purchased from the NSW Health contract or purchased from a quote. Products should be trialled before submitting a request

Item	Eligible Prescribers	Additional Comments
Low vision/reading aids	Low vision clinic Orthoptist Optometrist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audio labellers</li> <li>• Audio monitor (blood pressure, blood sugar levels)</li> <li>• DAISY players</li> <li>• Low vision computer software</li> <li>• Screen reading software</li> </ul>
Falls alarms/sensor mats	OT, PT, RN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Options include – bed, chair and floor mats</li> </ul>
Manual wheelchairs – foot propelled	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider environments of use</li> <li>• Ensure item meets the person’s long-term needs</li> </ul>
Manual wheelchairs – one arm drive		
Padding/pressure care for toilet seats	OT, PT, RN	
Wheelchair specialised arm supports	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check accessory compatibility with readily available manual wheelchairs</li> <li>• Obtain quote from NSW Health contracted supplier and submit with application</li> </ul>
Wheelchair head and neck supports		
Wheelchair lap trays		
Wheelchair lights and signaling devices		

PRE-APPROVAL REQUIRED		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete review of older person's AT needs as per your usual processes.</li> <li>2. Confirm that 'Readily available' and 'Purchased on request' products do not meet clinical need.</li> <li>3. Contact a clinical advisor via <a href="#">form</a> or phone to request pre-approval.</li> <li>4. If pre-approved, a confirmation email with the pre-approval number will be sent. The clinical advisor will provide contract options or products from the EnableNSW Equipment Centre to consider in the first instance. These must be trialled.</li> <li>5. Submit <a href="#">application</a> and provide a quote if applicable.</li> </ol>		
Item	Eligible Prescribers	Additional Comments
Care chairs	OT, PT, RN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided as a primary positioning device</li> <li>• Other mobility / positioning equipment (e.g. tilt in space wheelchair) is not in place for daytime use or community access</li> </ul>
Customised manual wheelchairs (MWC)	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Person must be a full-time wheelchair user</li> <li>• Ensure off the shelf options have been considered and are not clinically suitable</li> <li>• Contract options must be considered in the first instance</li> <li>• Prescriber must be suitably experienced and able to complete follow up assessments as required</li> <li>• For PWCs, the base must be approved and processed before completing a seating trial with an approved supplier</li> <li>• Additional power features (such as seat elevation) will not be funded in lieu of task adaptations or environmental modifications</li> <li>• Prescribers must be present for the delivery of PWCs</li> </ul>
Customised power wheelchairs (PWC)	OT, PT	
Customised wheelchair accessories, including alternative switches and controls	OT, PT	
Floor-line beds	OT, PT, RN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Person has a documented history of, or is at significant risk of falls from bed</li> <li>• Low cost solutions have been trialled and ruled out</li> <li>• Standard powered adjustable beds do not meet clinical need</li> <li>• An environmental review for additional delivery considerations must have been completed. Prescriber must confirm the floor-line bed can be delivered into the home</li> </ul>
Harnesses, seat belts and restraints for wheelchairs	OT, PT, RN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional risk assessments must be conducted to ensure the products do not impact the person's safety and will not restrict their independence or voluntary movement</li> </ul>
Low vision/reading aids	Low vision clinic Orthoptist Optometrist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Braille device</li> <li>• Desktop magnifier</li> <li>• Desktop magnifier with OCR (text to speech)</li> <li>• OrCam MyEye glasses</li> <li>• Portable electronic magnifier</li> </ul>
Portable ramps	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited sizes available</li> <li>• Must comply with recognised safety guidelines</li> </ul>
Positioning systems, including sleep positioning aids/bed positioning supports	OT, PT, RN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided for one bed only</li> <li>• Recommended as part of a management plan to address the assessed clinical need</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trial demonstrates improved sleep and reduced need for repositioning overnight</li> </ul>
Power assist devices for manual wheelchairs (independent user)	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Person must be a full-time, independent wheelchair user</li> <li>• Use of a power wheelchair has been considered and is not the most practical or cost-effective solution</li> <li>• Includes joystick or hand-rim operated options</li> <li>• The power conversion kit is unable to travel at speeds greater than 10km/hr or is speed limited to a maximum of 10km/hr and cannot be reprogrammed or changed by the person</li> <li>• Must be trialled in the environment of use</li> </ul>
Power lift chairs	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided as a transfer aid or as a person's primary daytime positioning device</li> <li>• Person must be ambulant</li> <li>• Person can use the device safely and independently</li> <li>• Lower cost solutions for transfers (such as height adjustable chairs or furniture raisers) have been considered and deemed not clinically suitable</li> <li>• Other transfer equipment (such as a standing hoist) or other positioning devices (such as a Care chair) have not been provided</li> </ul>
Power packs for manual wheelchairs (carer assisted)	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the person/carers can attach, dismantle and stow the device as required</li> </ul>
Scooters	OT, PT  Prescriber must conduct assessment of person's safety and suitability to use the scooter upon delivery with the supplier present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scooters are provided for an older person to complete essential tasks of daily living</li> <li>• The scooter <u>medical questionnaire</u> must be completed by the person's doctor and attached to the application</li> <li>• Person must be ambulant</li> <li>• The need for a specific cognitive screen should be considered by the prescriber</li> <li>• Scooters are not provided to travel distances expected of a vehicle or other forms of transport due to safety, repairs and maintenance concerns</li> <li>• If the person is unsafe using the scooter during the assessment with the supplier and prescriber present, the scooter must not be left onsite and should be returned to EnableNSW</li> <li>• It is the responsibility of the prescriber to provide ongoing training and regular reassessments as clinically indicated</li> </ul>
Customised seating systems	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seat and back support surfaces - can be off the shelf, customised or custom made</li> </ul>
Speech software	Speech Pathologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For clients with complex communication needs</li> <li>• Person can use the device independently, or is working towards independence</li> </ul>
Voice amplifiers/assistive communication devices		