

QSCIS CONTACTS

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Ordering Continence Equipment

Where do I get my continence aids?

There are 3 government schemes that might help you obtain continence supplies. These are the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS), the Continence Aids Payment Scheme (CAPS) and the Stoma Appliance Scheme (SAS)

Which scheme should I use?

This information sheet will help you decide which of these schemes you are eligible for and provide information on the application process.

About the schemes:

Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS)

MASS is a Queensland Health Department Scheme. If you qualify, the scheme will provide continence aids from a list of approved items.

To qualify for assistance you must be a permanent resident of Queensland, with a permanent or stabilised disability, and you must hold one of the following cards:

- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card
- DVA Pensioner Concession Card (conditions apply)
- Centrelink Health Care Card
- Queensland Government Seniors Card
- Centrelink Confirmation of Concession Card Entitlement Form (conditions apply)

You must also be assessed by a registered nurse, urologist, physiotherapist or occupational therapist. This is required with your first application and then every two years (MASS 50 form).

After your first application is approved, you will need to place orders for supplies every six to twelve months (depending on the products required). To order, fill out the MASS 55 form and follow the instructions on the form.

Note: MASS is a subsidy scheme and may not meet your full continence needs

For more information or to obtain the application forms, visit your **local community health service, or contact your nearest MASS Service Centre by phone:**

Brisbane 3136 3665

Cairns 4050 3500

or via the web: www.health.qld.gov.au/mass

Continence Aids Payment Scheme (CAPS)

CAPS is a new Federal Government Scheme introduced in July 2010, replacing the previous Continence Aids Assistance Scheme (CAAS).

Eligibility depends on your citizenship status and place of residence. Spinal cord injury causing incontinence is criteria for acceptance to the scheme. Other medical conditions may require further evidence, and require receipt of a federal government benefit to qualify.

A fixed payment is made directly to your nominated bank account to assist with the purchase of continence products. You can nominate either yearly payment (July) or half yearly payment



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assistance in updating this
information

(January and July). Alternatively you can request to have the payment made to a guardian's account or to a service provider by filling out the appropriate authorisation form.

You are then able to purchase continence products from any company of your choice. A list of such companies can be sourced through the Continence Foundation of Australia, and is available on line at www.bladderbowel.gov.au.

Application forms are available via the National Continence Helpline 1800 33 00 66, any Medicare Australia office or on line at www.bladderbowel.gov.au. The application includes a Health Report which must be completed by a health professional and returned to a Medicare Australia office for processing. Successful applicants should receive the payment within 2 weeks of application.

For more information contact the **National Continence Helpline on 1800 33 00 66**
Or via the internet www.bladderbowel.gov.au

Stoma Appliance Scheme (SAS)

The SAS is a Federal Government subsidisation scheme that provides stoma related products free of charge to people who have either a temporary or permanent stoma. Products supplied must be from an approved list of products, in set quantities. The choice of appropriate products will be guided by a Stomal therapy nurse.

To apply, you must hold an Entitlement Card supplied by Medicare Australia through any of the Stoma Associations throughout Australia. This means you will have to be a member of one of these associations (various fees apply). You will also require a "Certificate of Eligibility" completed by a medical practitioner or a Stomal therapy nurse.

For more information, please contact your Stomal therapy Association. A list of these associations can be found at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au (search for Stoma Appliance Scheme on their search engine)

I think I qualify for more than one scheme. What should I do?

You may be eligible to participate in multiple schemes. We recommend you first utilise the schemes that provide approved products in restricted amounts (MASS and SAS) and use payment based schemes (CAPS) for products that are not listed, or to "top up" your supplies.

For Further Information

- National Continence Helpline - 1800 33 00 66
The National Continence Helpline is staffed by a team of continence nurse advisors who can provide information, education and advice to Australians with or caring for someone with bladder or bowel control problems.
- Visit <http://www.bladderbowel.gov.au/>
- Contact the Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries Service

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