Purpose:
To ensure consistent standards are maintained when establishing the eligibility of clients for prosthetic funding support under the Queensland Government’s ‘Artificial Limb Scheme’, also known as the ‘free limb scheme’.

Procedure:
The Queensland Artificial Limb Service (QALS) is responsible for the management and administration of the ‘Artificial Limb Scheme’. A client will first need to apply for registration with QALS to establish eligibility. A documented process has been established to identify if a client is eligibility for prosthetic funding support. Once this process is complete the client applying for registration will be advised in writing that they are (or are not) registered with QALS, for on-going definitive prosthetic funding support.

Determination of Eligibility

- Must be listed on a current and open Australian Medicare Card, (not a temporary issued Medicare Card or limited residential status).
- Must be a permanent resident of Australia and living permanently in Queensland, with proof of residency.
- Assessed and deemed competent and suitable to use a prosthetic limb by a Rehabilitation Specialist, if recently undergone an amputation or osseointegration clinical procedure.
- Not obtaining prosthetic funding support or services from another Government agency or service (State / National or Overseas); insurance agency; private industry; sponsorship agreements; personal or industry donations; or not-for-profit organisations.
- QALS will determine eligibility if the client is visiting, or recently moved from interstate or from overseas on a case by case basis.
- Client seeking compensation (including WorkCover) will need to complete additional correspondence and forms if seeking temporary prosthetic funding assistance until their legal proceedings are determined.
- Client who has received compensation will be determined eligibility based on number of extenuating factors and legislative rulings and should contact the QALS office for further advice.

In general, permanent Queensland residents who are listed on a current and open Australian Medicare Card may be eligible for prosthetic service funding support under the Queensland Government ‘artificial limb scheme’. All applications are reviewed and processed under the current Health Care Agreement and/or Health Insurances Act.
Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) Gold Card holders must identify themselves with their DVA identifying number. QALS will contact the Rehabilitation and Appliances Program (RAP) within DVA to confirm prosthetic funding eligibility. Prosthetic services requests are processed through QALS, on behalf of DVA and according to the current RAP Schedule.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
The NDIS has commenced roll out of their services across Australia, expecting to be fully implemented by 30/6/2019. If a client (64 years and under) is registered with NDIS and eligible for prosthetic funding assistance they will not be eligible for support under QALS.

Compensation:
Clients who are undertaking legal proceedings for compensation relating their limb loss may receive temporary funding support under QALS while their case is under consideration. However, once their legal proceedings are complete a full reimburse to QALS of all costs incurred will be required. Clients who have received compensation for their limb loss will not be eligible for prosthetic funding support under Queensland Health’s ‘artificial limb scheme’ for an identified period of time. Once the specified time period has expired and/or future prosthetic / medical costs allocated in the settlement agreement has been expended, compensable clients may then apply for registration with QALS. Each client’s situation is considered on a case by case basis, determined by a number of factors. A client who has received compensation should contact QALS for specific information relating to their registration eligibility.

Department of Corrective Services:
A client held in custody by the Department of Corrective Services in Queensland, a permanent Australian resident and normally listed on a Medicare Card, is eligible for prosthetic funding support through QALS. The expectation will be, if that client falls into the category of compensation or identified as a permanent resident of another country. Under the Commonwealth/State Health Care Agreement, prisoners do not lose their Medicare eligibility; they simply have the card removed from them as part of the processing into the correctional system, along with all their other cliental effects.

Visitor from Interstate registered with their State ALS or NDIS:
- **Minor repairs:** If funding permits, QALS is prepared to pay costs for minor emergency repairs to a current prosthetic limb for those interstate visitors who are eligible for ‘artificial limb scheme’ (ALS) funding in their state of origin.
- **Consumable items:** An interstate visitor may access QALS recognised providers for consumable items, however QALS will not incur any costs for these items.
- **Major repairs and/or replacement of a Limb:** QALS shall not routinely provide major prosthetic services to residents of other States or Territories. Exceptions to this arrangement can occur in emergency situations and in agreement with the client’s state of origin Artificial Limb Scheme [ALS].
- **NDIS** registered participants visiting Queensland may access a QALS recognised prosthetic service provider for services and arrange payment direct to the provider.

Residents of Other Countries:
QALS may provide emergency services for those foreign nationals whose country has a Reciprocal Health Care Arrangement with Australia. Each case shall be assessed and determined individually.
Overseas visitors to Australia who routinely use a prosthetic device should ensure their ‘Travel or Health Insurance’ will cover any prosthetic repairs or replacements.

An individual who undergoes an emergency amputation while in Australia may be provided with an interim prosthetic limb at the desecration of the public hospital service, if they are referred on for rehabilitation in a major public hospital and require a prosthetic device to enable them to be transported to their home country and/or permanent place of residence.

Non residents from other countries, such as New Zealand and United Kingdom, may hold a temporary Medicare Card with restricted health service provisions for emergency hospital services only. Temporary Medicare Card holders are not entitled to prosthetic funding support under the Queensland Government ‘artificial limb scheme’ until they are fully recognised by Medicare (generally 12 month period) and/or have become a permanent resident of Australia.

Non-residents from other countries and those individuals that do not hold an open Australian Medicare Card are not eligible for prosthetic service funding support under the Queensland Government ‘artificial limb scheme’.

**Evaluation Method:**
- Review of number of applications per annum.
- Comparison of registered clients and active clients in calendar/financial year.
- Monitoring of failed compensations cases reverting to Queensland Health’s public services.
- Monitoring on interstate and overseas service requests per financial year.
- Annual report to Department of Veterans’ Affairs on prosthetic services supplied to Veterans.

**HYPERLINK TO:** [http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qals/content/policies.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/qals/content/policies.asp)