

Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS)

Application Guidelines for Mobility Aids

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Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) – Application Guidelines for Mobility Aids

Mobility Aids

Mobility aids subsidised	Maximum MASS subsidy	May be subsidised when
Wheeled walking aid (WWA)	\$450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant is unable to walk effectively without support.
Basic manual wheelchair (MWC)	\$1200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant cannot walk independently or effectively use an aid to walk within their home environment. MWC is used predominantly in the home environment which must be MWC accessible. The most basic MWC which meets applicant's needs for seating, mobility and functional activities should be requested.
Non-basic manual wheelchair (MWC)	\$2200	<p>Meets above guidelines and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> user weight exceeds 120 kg; or is a long duration independent user at risk of overuse injury and requires optimum set up for efficiency of propulsion; or requires non-standard size and/or options to meet client's positioning and postural needs (Note: includes capacity to fit postural supports, accommodate foot position with footplate angles etc) For manual wheelchairs with addition of standing function, the MASS28 Standing Wheelchair Checklist must be completed and submitted with the application.
Tilt in space manual wheelchair (TIS MWC)	\$4000	<p>In addition to meeting the manual wheelchair criteria above, applicant requires tilt in space to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve or maintain a more upright, stable supported sitting position when head and trunk control are impaired. Redistribute pressure so less pressure is directed through bony prominences on the seat, if the applicant is unable to weight bear in standing. Facilitate optimal positioning for comfort and function due to deformity/pain/involuntary movement/adnormal tone/seizure activity. Better manage respiration, gastro-intestinal function and facilitate hoist transfers.

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Mobility aids subsidised (continued)	Maximum MASS subsidy	May be subsidised when
Tilt in space specialised stroller (TIS SS)	\$4000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child, under 5 yrs, and is unable to walk with an aid, or be effectively positioned in a manual or power wheelchair or a non specialised stroller. • The stroller must be used as the main means of mobility in the home environment. • Child requires tilt in space to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve or maintain a more upright, stable supported sitting position when head and trunk control are impaired. • Facilitate optimal positioning when deformity/pain/involuntary movement/abnormal tone/seizure activity are present. • Better manage respiration, gastrointestinal function and facilitate transfers.
Back up manual wheelchair (MWC)	MASS Stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided, as is, from MASS stock as an emergency means of mobility within the home when an applicant's power wheelchair is being serviced or repaired. • A waiting period may apply until a suitable MWC is available. MASS will not fund accessories or modifications to back up MWCs .
Power wheelchair (PWC)	\$6650	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant is unable to walk with an aid or self propel a manual wheelchair effectively in their home environment which must be accessible to the requested PWC. • Applicant has demonstrated ability (as recorded on Home Access Checklist) to develop the skills necessary to effectively control and manoeuvre a PWC inside the home and around any other areas to be accessed. NB: The prescriber may choose to submit DVD footage to support the application. • Applicant/carer is able to undertake care and maintenance of the PWC including daily charging of batteries. • For power wheelchairs with addition of standing function, the MASS28 Standing Wheelchair Checklist must be completed and submitted with the application.

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Mobility aids subsidised (continued)	Maximum MASS subsidy	May be subsidised when
Tilt in space power wheelchair (PWC TIS)	\$1500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant meets the eligibility criteria for PWC plus tilt criteria outlined for manual tilt in space wheelchair (see above). • In addition, applicant may require TIS to facilitate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repositioning and transfers, and weight shift during the operation of the PWC. • the applicant’s negotiation over uneven surfaces, ramps etc
Accessories and/or modifications to MASS subsidised wheelchair		Please refer to table below for description and maximum subsidy funding available for each modification/accessory requested.
Foam wheelchair cushion	\$100	Applicant is eligible for manual or power wheelchair.
Pressure redistribution cushion (PRC)	\$750	<p>Applicant is eligible for manual or power wheelchair, and Applicant experiences one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of developing a pressure injury as identified through a formal risk screening tool (e.g. Waterlow, Braden etc) and/or is unable to effectively redistribute pressure. • History of pressure injury on areas in contact with the seat. • Major fixed skeletal deformity and/or motor/ sensory loss with potential for pressure injury development.

For all mobility equipment excluding foam cushions, items on the Standing Offer Arrangement (SOA) are to be considered first. Refer to <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/mass/prescribe/mobility/products-suppliers.asp>. Non SOA items can be considered where they have been demonstrated to better meet the applicant’s clinical and functional needs. This equipment must meet MASS’ purchasing requirements e.g. Australian Standards requirements where relevant.

Permanent Loan, Repairs, Maintenance and Ownership

Manual wheelchairs and power wheelchairs are most often provided on permanent loan, with repairs and maintenance funded by MASS. For further details, refer to the following sections of the General Guidelines:

- **Permanent Loans:** this section includes a list of exempt items where ownership and the responsibility for repairs and maintenance is deemed to the client (i.e. wheeled walking aids and back up manual wheelchairs).
- **Permanent Loans - Repairs and Maintenance**
- **Changes to Ownership of an Aid:** this section includes information and the implications where equipment is either transferred from MASS to the client, or MASS takes over the ownership of equipment (e.g. similar equipment provided by interstate agencies).

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Accessories and Modifications

Accessories and/or modifications to Manual or Power wheelchairs	Maximum MASS subsidy	May be subsidised when the purpose is
Adjustable bracketry	\$250	To allow growth and fitting/reuse of accessories e.g. backrests, seats, headrests, lateral supports
Amputee brackets	\$95 per pair	To relocate rear wheels to increase stability
Anti-tips	\$100	To prevent chair tipping
Armrests - height adjustable/ alternative/ modified	\$200 per pair/ option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide upper limb support Style of armrest required to facilitate independent or assisted transfers, or for completion of functional activities
Backrest: Slung	Included in cost of MWC	
Backrest: Basic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tension adjustable Padded Flat Other 	\$250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Body shape that requires adjustability in the backrest to provide extra support requires minimal prompts to maintain sitting posture back pain management flat backrest required in conjunction with lateral supports
Backrest: Non-Basic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shallow Curve Deep Curve Asymmetrical profile 	\$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires lateral/postural support to sustain sitting posture trunk posture negatively impacts function, skin integrity or comfort requires tilt-in-space
Brake handle extensions	\$30 per pair	To enable applicant or carer to operate brakes (also known as wheel locks)
Clothes protectors (side guards)	\$90 per pair	For safety to protect clothing or hips/ thighs from wheelchair spokes

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Accessories and/or modifications to Manual or Power wheelchairs	Maximum MASS subsidy	May be subsidised when the purpose is
Footplates - modified and/or hanger-modified	\$220 each assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide adequate foot support Facilitate transfers or improve access for completion of daily activities
Hand rims - e.g. capstan or one arm drive	\$300 per pair	To allow for self propulsion when applicant does not have adequate strength or grip
Hand rims - plastic coated/ stainless steel	\$150 per pair	To allow self propulsion
Headrest - contoured/ halo/ anterior support	\$400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide adequate head support or for respiratory needs Required for mounting specialised power wheelchair controls
Legrests - elevating	\$350 per pair	To provide adequate lower limb support or accommodate limitations in movement
Power joystick nonstandard mounting	\$200	To position joystick to enable access and/or control of the PWC
Swing away/retractable joy stick	\$200	Provided for improved functional access
Push handles	\$75 per pair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable the applicant to independently transfer and weight shift Facilitate safe propulsion by a carer
Seat - postural control: contoured/ asymmetrical	\$1000	Maintain pelvic position/ stability or to accommodate postural deformity or asymmetry
Seat - postural control: flat/ planar/seat pan	\$200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain pelvic position/ stability To support a foam or pressure redistribution cushion

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Accessories and/or modifications to Manual or Power wheelchairs	Maximum MASS subsidy	May be subsidised when the purpose is
Securements - flexible	\$200 per securement	Provide adequate postural support to maintain appropriate position in chair
Securements – rigid	\$250 per securement	
Specialised power wheelchair control systems	\$3000 per 5 year period	Applicant is unable to use a standard joystick and can demonstrate safe control of power wheelchair with alternate control
Spoke guards	\$120 per pair	Provided for safety to prevent fingers becoming trapped in spokes
Stump supports (with hanger assembly)	\$150 each	To support stump for applicants with below knee amputation/s
Tip assist/step bar (one side only)	\$15	For carer ease of use when negotiating small obstacles in the home environment
Tray	\$300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide postural support and facilitate completion of daily activities Mounting for wheelchair controls and communication aids
Ventilator mountings	\$200	Applicant relies on a ventilator for respiration

In circumstances where a client meets the eligibility criteria for Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) and the Community Aids Equipment and Assistive Technology Initiative (CAEATI) and requests an upgrade to their MASS funded equipment to meet their CAEATI goals, CAEATI funds may be used to subsidise the cost of upgrades to the frame of the equipment to enhance the use of the equipment in the community.

- The client must meet the MASS eligibility criteria for the item requested.
- The upgrade and or additional modifications to the MASS funded equipment must meet the CAEATI guidelines.

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Remote Trial Subsidy (Up to \$200 per successful application)

The Remote Trial Subsidy shall be available to suppliers who attend the trial appointment in remote areas with the client and therapist.

The Remote Trial Subsidy shall be available for the following post codes:

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| • 4428 | • 4472 | • 4721-4733 | • 4809 |
| • 4454 | • 4474 | • 4735 | • 4816 |
| • 4455 | • 4475 | • 4736 | • 4820-4825 |
| • 4465 | • 4477-4482 | • 4778 | • 4828-4830 |
| • 4467 | • 4486 | • 4801 | • 4871-4876 |
| • 4468 | • 4488-4493 | • 4802 | • 4890-4892 |
| • 4470 | • 4707 | • 4805 | • 4895 |

The remote trial subsidy may be available for the following products:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • power wheelchair | • tilt in space manual wheelchair |
| • scooter | • tilt in space mobile showerchair |
| • power assist | • specialised stroller |
| • non basic and custom manual wheelchair | • patient lifter and sling |
| • custom mobile showerchair | • pressure redistribution mattress/overlay |
| | • sleep positioning system |

How to apply

Consult with an eligible prescriber to assist with assessment and selection of appropriate aids and equipment. The prescriber will complete MASS 20 Daily Living Aids and Mobility Equipment and any extra documentation required; then submit the complete application to MASS - please refer to the list of application forms and documents required below.

Trial and follow up requirements

All equipment should be adequately trialled in the home environment, or it must be demonstrated how the equipment will be compatible with the home in Part C of the application.

When determining if trial of a pressure redistribution cushion has been successful, provide details of outcomes of skin checks.

A post delivery follow up visit is to be provided by the prescriber (or is referred onto another health professional) to ensure that:

- all items are delivered as quoted
- the client and carer are familiar with operation and effective use of the equipment, and aware of maintenance and repair processes

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Eligible prescribers

Applicants wishing to apply must consult an:

- Occupational Therapist (OT); or
- Physiotherapist (PT); or
- Rehabilitation Engineer

In rural and remote areas, a Registered Nurse may complete the application in consultation with one of the allied health professionals listed above.

Application forms and documents

Wheeled walking aid	<p>MASS 20 Wheeled Walking Aid Application form</p> <p>Note: if applying for other equipment in the one application, a MASS 20 Daily Living Aids and Mobility Form can be used.</p>
Manual wheelchair (including tilt in space, specialised stroller)	<p>Include each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MASS 20 Daily Living Aids and Mobility Equipment, Part A Applicant Details • MASS 20 Daily Living Aids and Mobility Equipment, Part B Prescriber Assessment, Part C Equipment Application • Signed MASS 84 Proxy Access to Centrelink Information form or photocopy of both sides of the applicant's concession card • Quote and specification sheet if applicable for requested item from the supplier that provided trial of equipment • For Manual Wheelchair with standing function, the MASS28 Standing Wheelchair Checklist
Foam cushion	
Pressure redistribution cushion	
Power wheelchair (including tilt in space)	<p>Please provide all documents as listed above for manual wheelchairs, with the addition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Access Checklist • If the prescriber chooses to submit DVD footage to support the application, a DVD and MASS 82 Consent for Photography/Video form • For Power Wheelchairs with standing function, the MASS28 Standing Wheelchair Checklist
Backup manual wheelchair	<p>Complete the Daily Living Aids and Mobility Equipment Letter Template and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifications of requested MWC -seat width, seat depth, tilt in space etc • Signed MASS 84 Proxy Access to Centrelink Information form or photocopy of both sides of the applicant's concession card

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Application forms and documents (cont)

<p>Accessories and/or modifications to existing MASS subsidised wheelchairs</p>	<p>If an item needs immediate replacement (e.g. broken pelvic strap, footrests, etc) contact MASS repairs, phone 3136 3545 or 3136 3636, or for north Queensland clients 07 4433 8000. For planned changes or items not needing immediate replacement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Daily Living Aids and Mobility Equipment Letter Template • Signed MASS 84 Proxy Access to Centrelink Information form or photocopy of both sides of the applicant's concession card • Quote for the item <p>Note: if applying for other equipment in the one application, a MASS 20 Daily Living Aids and Mobility Equipment form can be used.</p>
<p>Replacement with same brand, model and size equipment (i.e. like for like) that is beyond economical repair but remains suitable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Daily Living Aids and Mobility Equipment Letter Template • Signed MASS 84 Proxy Access to Centrelink Information form or photocopy of both sides of the applicant's concession card • Quote for the item <p>At MASS' discretion, equipment deemed beyond economic repair, may be replaced without requiring documentation. This is considered on a case by case basis. To discuss, contact MASS Repairs, phone 3136 3545.</p> <p>Note: if applying for other equipment in the one application, a MASS 20 Daily Living Aids and Mobility Equipment can be used.</p>