

Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS)

# Application Guidelines for Mobility Aids

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## Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) - Application Guidelines for Mobility Aids

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An electronic version of this document is available at [health.qld.gov.au/mass](https://health.qld.gov.au/mass)

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# Aims of MASS

The aim of MASS is to provide endorsed aids and equipment (assistive products) to eligible Queensland residents with a permanent and stabilised condition or disability. Assistive products are selected to assist people to live in their home environment and avoid premature or inappropriate residential care or hospitalisation. To meet this aim, the assistive products subsidised by MASS must be required for use within the home environment. MASS acknowledges that assistive products may be used for some community access, although the MASS subsidy is not provided for this purpose as it is outside the scope of the scheme.

MASS will subsidise one mobility aid only – either a wheeled walker, manual wheelchair, or power wheelchair. Where a client has already been supplied with a power wheelchair, they may request a basic back up manual wheelchair from MASS stock.

MASS will subsidise one suitably sized pressure redistribution cushion only, for use with an applicant's primary mobility device (manual wheelchair or power wheelchair – refer to [Application Guidelines for Pressure Redistribution Support Surfaces](#)).

If a suitable mobility aid or pressure redistribution cushion is held in MASS stock, MASS may allocate this item and arrange delivery to the requested address.

## Mobility Aids

Mobility aids subsidised	Maximum MASS subsidy	May be subsidised when
Wheeled walking aid (WWA)	\$450	Applicant is unable to walk effectively without support.
Basic manual wheelchair (MWC)	\$1200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Applicant cannot mobilise, independently or effectively walk using an aid within their home environment to complete activities of daily living.</li><li>MWC is used predominantly in the home environment which must be MWC accessible.</li><li>The most basic MWC which meets the applicant's needs for seating, mobility and functional activities should be requested.</li></ul>
Non-basic manual wheelchair (MWC)	\$2200	Applicant meets above guidelines and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Weight exceeds 120kg.</li></ul> Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Is a long duration independent user at risk of overuse injury and requires optimum set up for efficiency of propulsion e.g. longstanding paraplegia, mobilising actively and without assistance for majority of the day.</li></ul>

Mobility aids subsidised	Maximum MASS subsidy	May be subsidised when
		<p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires non-standard size and/or options to meet positioning and postural needs (includes capacity to fit postural supports, accommodate foot position with footplate angles etc.).</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> For manual wheelchairs with addition of standing function, the MASS 28 Standing Wheelchair Checklist must be completed and submitted with the application.</p>
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"> <li>Achieve or maintain a more upright, stable supported sitting position when head and trunk control are impaired.</li> </ul> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redistribute pressure so less pressure is directed through bony prominences on the seat, if the applicant is unable to weight bear in standing.</li> </ul> <p>Or</p> <p>Facilitate optimal positioning for comfort and function due to deformity/pain/involuntary movement/abnormal tone/seizure activity.</p> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better manage respiration, gastro-intestinal function and facilitate hoist transfers.</li> </ul>
Tilt in space specialised stroller (TIS SS)	\$4000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child, under 5 years, who is unable to walk with an aid, or be effectively positioned in a manual or power wheelchair or a non-specialised stroller.</li> <li>The stroller must be used as the main means of mobility in the home environment.</li> </ul> <p>Child requires tilt in space to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieve or maintain a more upright, stable supported sitting position when head and trunk control are impaired.</li> </ul> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate optimal positioning when deformity/pain/involuntary movement/abnormal tone/seizure activity are present.</li> </ul> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better manage respiration, gastrointestinal function and facilitate transfers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The majority of children under 5 will be eligible for funding assistance through the National Disability</p>

Mobility aids subsidised	Maximum MASS subsidy	May be subsidised when
		<p>Insurance Scheme (NDIS). In some circumstances, where an applicant is not NDIS eligible due to citizenship status, and otherwise meets all MASS' eligibility criteria including the following clinical criteria, an application may be submitted to MASS for assessment.</p>
<b>Back up manual wheelchair (MWC)</b>	MASS Stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic MWC provided, as is, from MASS stock to those supplied with a power wheelchair by MASS.</li> <li>Provided as an emergency means of mobility within the home when an applicant's power wheelchair is being serviced or repaired.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> A waiting period may apply until a suitable MWC is available in MASS stock. MASS will not fund accessories or modifications to back up MWCs. MASS does not fund a cushion for use with a backup MWC.</p>
<b>Power wheelchair (PWC)</b>	\$6650	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant is unable to walk with an aid or self propel a manual wheelchair effectively in their home environment.</li> <li>Applicant has demonstrated ability to develop the skills necessary to effectively control and manoeuvre the requested PWC inside the home and around any other areas to be accessed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The prescriber may choose to submit footage to support the application. A <a href="#">MASS 24 Home Access Checklist</a> is available as resource as required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant/carer is able to undertake care and maintenance of the PWC including daily charging of batteries.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> For power wheelchairs with addition of standing function, the MASS28 Standing Wheelchair Checklist must be completed and submitted with the application.</p>
<b>Tilt in space power wheelchair (PWC TIS)</b>	\$1500	<p>Applicant meets the eligibility criteria for PWC plus tilt criteria outlined for manual tilt in space wheelchair (see above).</p> <p>In addition, applicant may require TIS to facilitate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repositioning and transfers, and weight shift during the operation of the PWC.</li> </ul> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant's negotiation over uneven surfaces, kerbs, ramps etc.</li> </ul>

Mobility aids subsidised	Maximum MASS subsidy	May be subsidised when
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.
Basic foam wheelchair cushion	\$100	Applicant is eligible for manual or power wheelchair.
Pressure redistribution cushion (PRC)	\$750	Refer to <a href="#">Application Guidelines for Pressure Redistribution Support Surfaces (PRSS)</a>

For all mobility equipment (excluding basic foam cushions and tilt in space specialised strollers), items on the Standing Offer Arrangement (SOA) are to be considered first. Refer to [health.qld.gov.au/mass/prescribe/mobility/products-suppliers](http://health.qld.gov.au/mass/prescribe/mobility/products-suppliers). 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.

## 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	Allow growth and fitting/reuse of accessories e.g. Backrests, seats, headrests, lateral supports.
Amputee brackets	\$95 per pair	Relocate rear wheels to increase stability.
Anti-tips	\$100	Prevent chair tipping.
Armrests - height adjustable/ alternative/ modified	\$200 per pair/ option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide upper limb support.</li> </ul> Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate independent or assisted transfers, or for completion of functional activities.</li> </ul>
Backrest: Slung	Included in cost of MWC	

Accessories and/or modifications to Manual or Power wheelchairs	Maximum MASS subsidy	May be subsidised when the purpose is
<b>Backrest: Basic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tension adjustable</li> <li>• Padded</li> <li>• Flat</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	\$250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide extra, adjustable support to accommodate body shape.</li> </ul> Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain sitting posture with minimal prompts.</li> </ul> Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage back pain.</li> </ul> Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide flat backrest in conjunction with lateral supports.</li> </ul>
<b>Backrest: Non-Basic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shallow Curve</li> <li>• Deep Curve</li> <li>• Asymmetrical profile</li> </ul>	\$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide lateral/postural support to sustain sitting posture.</li> <li>• Maintain skin integrity.</li> <li>• Address function or comfort issues.</li> </ul> Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodate tilt-in-space.</li> </ul>
<b>Brake handle extensions</b>	\$30 per pair	Enable applicant or carer to operate brakes (also known as wheel locks).
<b>Clothes protectors (side guards)</b>	\$90 per pair	Protect clothing or hips/thighs from wheelchair spokes.
<b>Footplates - modified and/or hanger-modified</b>	\$220 each assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide adequate foot support.</li> </ul> Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate transfers or improve access for completion of daily activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Hand rims - e.g. capstan or one arm drive</b>	\$300 per pair	Allow for self propulsion when applicant does not have adequate strength or grip.
<b>Hand rims - plastic coated/stainless steel</b>	\$150 per pair	Allow for self propulsion.
<b>Headrest - contoured/halo/anterior support</b>	\$400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide adequate head support or for respiratory needs.</li> <li>• Accommodate mounting of specialised power wheelchair controls.</li> </ul> <b>Note:</b> MASS does not subsidise headrests solely for use during vehicle transport.
<b>Legrests - elevating</b>	\$350 per pair	Provide adequate lower limb support or accommodate limitations in movement.
<b>Power joystick nonstandard mounting</b>	\$200	Position joystick to enable access and/or control of the PWC.
<b>Swing away/retractable joy stick</b>	\$200	Provide improved functional access.



Accessories and/or modifications to Manual or Power wheelchairs	Maximum MASS subsidy	May be subsidised when the purpose is
Push handles	\$75 per pair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enable the applicant to independently transfer and weight shift.</li> </ul> Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate safe propulsion by a carer.</li> </ul>
Seat - postural control: contoured/ asymmetrical	\$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain pelvic position/stability.</li> </ul> Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodate postural deformity or asymmetry.</li> </ul>
Seat - postural control: flat/ planar/seat pan	\$200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain pelvic position/stability.</li> <li>Support a foam or pressure redistribution cushion.</li> </ul>
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	Provide alternate control when applicant is unable to use a standard joystick and can demonstrate safe control of power wheelchair.
Spoke guards	\$120 per pair	Prevent fingers becoming trapped in spokes.
Stump supports (with hanger assembly)	\$150 each	Support stump for applicants with below knee amputation/s.
Tip assist/step bar (one side only)	\$15	Assist carer when negotiating small obstacles in the home environment.
Tray	\$300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide postural support and facilitate completion of daily activities.</li> <li>Accommodate mounting for wheelchair controls and communication aids.</li> </ul>
Ventilator mountings	\$200	Address needs of applicants reliant on a ventilator for respiration.
Pressure Redistribution Cushion cover	Annually	A replacement pressure redistribution cushion cover can be requested once a year via MASS repair and maintenance processes.

# 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 applicant and therapist.

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

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

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

- power wheelchair
- non-basic and custom manual wheelchair
- tilt-in-space manual wheelchair
- specialised stroller
- custom mobile shower commode
- tilt-in-space mobile shower commode
- patient lifter and sling
- pressure redistribution mattress/overlay
- sleep positioning system

## 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 [MASS General Guidelines](#):

- Permanent Loans
- 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 applicant, or MASS takes over the ownership of equipment (e.g. similar equipment provided by interstate agencies).

## How to apply

Consult with an eligible prescriber to assist with assessment and selection of appropriate assistive products. The prescriber will complete the [MASS-eApply online application](#) or the [MASS 20 Daily Living Aids and Mobility Equipment application form](#) and any extra documentation required; then submit the completed application to MASS - please refer to the list of application forms and documents required below.

MASS has a Standing Offer Arrangement for the supply of assistive products -wheelchairs, wheeled walking aids (WWA) and pressure redistribution cushions (PRC). If applying for a non-SOA wheelchair, PRC or WWA, clinical justification must be provided to show none of the SOA approved items will meet the applicant's needs.

## Trial and follow up requirements

All equipment should be adequately trialed in the home environment, or it must be demonstrated how the equipment will be compatible with the home in Part C of the application. Trial is not required for static or 3-in-1 commodes where suitability can be confirmed with review of specifications and simulated trial.

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

- All items are delivered as quoted.
- The applicant and carer are familiar with operation and effective use of the equipment, and aware of maintenance and repair process.

This should be done by direct home visit where hands-on set up and/or training is required. In other situations, telehealth or similar strategies may be utilised if appropriate.

N.B. a safety switch or residential current device must be installed for items connected to mains power for operating/charging.

## 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.

## MASS-eApply Online Application

MASS-eApply is the preferred method of application for all Bathing and Toileting aid requests to MASS.

Online applications are designed to work across multiple platforms: computer/laptop, iPad, Android tablet or smartphone and across all MASS service areas.

As part of the eApply process, applicant's eligibility will be confirmed electronically.

Further Information: [health.qld.gov.au/mass/mass-online-applications](https://health.qld.gov.au/mass/mass-online-applications) and [MASS e-Apply Tutorials](#)

To register: [forms.health.qld.gov.au/#/vault](https://forms.health.qld.gov.au/#/vault)

To login: [forms.health.qld.gov.au/#/login](https://forms.health.qld.gov.au/#/login)

For enquiries and technical assistance contact: [MASS-eApply@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:MASS-eApply@health.qld.gov.au)

## Application forms and documents required for non MASS-eApply applications

Equipment Category	Application Requirements
Wheeled walking aid	<p>Include each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">MASS 20 DLA/MOB Application Form</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Part A Applicant Details</li><li>– Part B Prescriber Assessment</li><li>– Part C Equipment Application</li></ul></li><li>• Signed <a href="#">MASS 84 Proxy Access to Centrelink Information Form</a> or Photocopy of both sides of the applicant's concession card.</li><li>• Quote and specification form (script) if applicable (all MWC's and customised PRC's) for requested item from the supplier that provided trial of equipment.</li><li>• MASS 28 Standing Wheelchair Checklist (for manual wheelchair with standing function).</li></ul>
Manual wheelchair (including tilt in space, specialised stroller)	
Foam 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"><li>• If the prescriber chooses to submit footage to support the application, a <a href="#">MASS 82 Consent for Photography/Video form</a> must be provided with the footage.</li><li>• MASS 28 Standing Wheelchair Checklist (for manual wheelchair with standing function).</li></ul> <p><b>Note:</b> <a href="#">MASS 24 Home Access Checklist</a> is available for use as resource as required.</p>

Equipment Category	Application Requirements
Backup manual wheelchair	<p>Complete the Daily Living Aids and Mobility Equipment Letter Template and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifications of requested MWC: seat width, seat depth, tilt in space etc.</li> <li>• Signed <a href="#">MASS 84 Proxy Access to Centrelink Information Form</a> or Photocopy of both sides of the applicant's concession card.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> If applying for other equipment in the one application, a <a href="#">MASS 20 Daily Living Aids and Mobility Form</a> can be used.</p>

**Important Note:**

If an item needs immediate replacement or repair (e.g. broken waist strap, footrests, etc), please contact MASS:

- BRISBANE and TOWNSVILLE Offices: 3136 3524
- [MASS-Equipment@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:MASS-Equipment@health.qld.gov.au) or [MASS-Equipment-TSV@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:MASS-Equipment-TSV@health.qld.gov.au)