

MASS Action

December 2022

The Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) provides access to subsidy funding for the provision of a range of aids and equipment to eligible Queensland residents with permanent and stabilised condition or a disability.

Upcoming Holiday Period

MASS offices will be providing limited services during the holiday period **from 4:30pm Friday 23 December 2022 until Monday 2 January 2023 (inclusive)** and will **reopen on Tuesday 3rd January 2023**.

The MASS Palliative Care Equipment Program (PCEP) will remain open for Daily Living and Mobility Aids and Home Oxygen services between Wednesday 28 December and Friday 30 December 2022 (inclusive).

For more information on services being provided by MASS during the holiday period and emergency repairs, please refer to our website on:

health.qld.gov.au/mass/holiday-message/



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Contact MASS

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From the Director's Desk

Welcome to the December 2022 edition of MASS Action.

On behalf of MASS, I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land across Queensland, and pay respects to First Nations Elders past, present and future.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and holiday period on behalf of all of MASS.

I have been the Advanced Clinical Advisor Palliative Care Equipment Program (Occupational Therapist) at MASS since 2021. Prior to this, I was the Principal Project Officer for the Palliative Care Equipment Project, which was successful in obtaining recurrent funding. I was also an Advanced Clinical Education Officer at MASS and an Associate Lecturer in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Queensland.

For over 10 years, I practiced in a community Chronic Disease team with a focus on Respiratory, Cardiac and Diabetes. We supported the Princess Alexandra Hospital Motor Neurone Disease Clinic from establishment, with over 5 years of working with clients and their families, from diagnosis to palliation and bereavement.

While John Vasil MASS Director, is touring the world on his well-deserved break, it has been a great pleasure to be part of MASS as Director for this short period. During this time, I can so clearly see the hard work that has been put in to conquer the ever-changing challenges MASS has faced. My admiration for our team continues to grow.

The fruit of MASS resilience is so evident in our achievements. There is a lot to be proud of - from completing an SOA, the introduction of MASS ID Cards, to the running of webinars. Please enjoy your own well-deserved holidays and I'll see you in the New Year.



Renae Kelly
Acting Director
Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme
Community and Oral Health
Metro South Health

Basic Mobility Aids Trial

A reminder that MASS is conducting a Basic Mobility Aids Trial, which introduces a new range of basic manual, tilt and power wheelchair options for provision by Prescribers.

These new categories will support the current MASS eligibility requirements for **“The most basic mobility item which meets the applicants needs for seating, mobility and functional activities to be requested”**. This trial aims to provide Prescribers with a more flexible, cost-effective range of options that suit the applicant’s needs.

MASS Administrative and Clinical Eligibility requirements remain the same and will continue to subsidise one mobility item for an applicant’s primary mobility within the home environment.

The range of basic manual, tilt in space manual and power wheelchair options under the trial are available on our website. Please visit the [MASS Mobility Aids webpage](#) to access the new [Basic Mobility Aids Trial Guidelines supplement](#) and updated equipment [weblinks](#).

As MASS is providing this within existing budgeting constraints, the viability of this trial will determine whether it can be adopted permanently.



Client Feedback Form

MASS is currently running a [client feedback online form](#) which **closes 31 December 2022**.

We welcome you to participate as your feedback will help improve the services we provide.

The brief anonymous feedback form will take **less than one minute to complete**.

The client feedback form is available on metrosouthhealth.citizenspace.com/mass/mass-client-feedback-form/

Client Reference Card

MASS introduced MASS Reference (ID) Cards in March 2022 for MASS applicants.

MASS reference cards can be used to assist prescribers when completing the MASS-eApply applicant search to pre-fill applicant data.

Applicants will receive a card automatically after the approval of their next application (excluding applications for Palliative Care or Spectacles) or can be provided upon request (e.g. via website).

Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS)

Queensland Health

John Citizen

B9999999

Bring this card with you to your next appointment for MASS services.



Queensland Government

For more information visit health.qld.gov.au/mass/idcard



Clinical Education

MASS Clinical Education provides regular education for prescribers, allied health assistants, clients and carers. Students studying to become a health professional in any MASS designated prescriber category are also welcome to participate.

Most education sessions are provided as a webinar on Microsoft Teams at no cost.

We've had a busy four months with webinars covering various topics:

- [Assessing and prescribing beds and recliner / fallout chairs in the palliative care context](#)
- [Applying for Continence Aids Using MASS-eApply](#)
- [Overview of Products in the new MASS Continence Standing Offer Arrangement SOA](#)
- [Cultural considerations regarding the provision of assistive technology to First Nations Peoples](#)
- [Assessing for and prescribing Bathing and Toileting Aids](#)
- [Meeting the Assistive Technology, Continence and Pressure Management Needs of Bariatric Clients](#)

A range of other webinar recordings are also available on the [MASS Education's Sway](#).

We also held an in-person workshop for therapists at our Brisbane office - 'Selecting and Setting Up Mounting Systems (wheelchair, table and rolling mounts) for Communication Aids' in October.

Throughout the year, we've found our [Pressure Cushion Remote Hands-on Learning Program](#) to be very popular. Prescribers may complete the [Expression of Interest](#) form to enter the waiting list to trial a selection of nine cushions.

Our next Clinical Education Calendar will be released at the end of January 2023. Check out the [MASS Clinical Education webpage](#) for the most current details.

Prescribers: join the [MASS Education mailing list](#), if you haven't already done so.

For more information

Email MASS-Education@health.qld.gov.au

Phone 07 3136 3526

Visit health.qld.gov.au/mass/education

Upcoming Webinars and Workshops

7 December 2022 1:00 – 1:30pm

[MASS-eApply in a Nutshell](#) (Webinar)

Indigenous Spectacle Supply Scheme (ISSS) Project

The ISSS provides eligible Indigenous Queensland residents with a pair of basic prescription spectacles.

The ISSS project will finish 31/12/2022.

For more information, visit health.qld.gov.au/mass/prescribe/indigenous-spectacle-supply-scheme

Online Applications for Prescribers

MASS-eApply runs through your internet browser and is designed to work on all devices.

To register complete a registration form available on forms.health.qld.gov.au/#/vault.

Need help?

Email: MASS-eApply@health.qld.gov.au

For troubleshooting tips and tutorials, visit health.qld.gov.au/mass/eapply/



Occupational Therapy Student Placements with MASS

Hi, we are Nurul Aqilah Pauzi and Keely Scott, third year occupational therapy students completing our first 10-week block of placement at MASS.

MASS has provided us with wonderful opportunities to learn about all the different types of assistive technologies available and has provided us with an extensive insight into the process of MASS applications. We have been involved in liaising with therapists to determine what trial stock is available and organising the selected items to be allocated for trial.

We have also had the opportunity to attend multiple education sessions and webinars, and to gain experience in developing and presenting our own educational webinar 'Meeting the Needs of Bariatric Clients' to healthcare workers.

We have been involved in reviewing many MASS applications, including daily living aids, mobility aids and continence products, which has expanded our views and understanding of clinical reasoning and justification when requesting equipment. The complexity of some of the applications has really challenged our ways of thinking and has put us out of our comfort zone. However, the best part is that we did not have to face these challenges alone!



Photo: Keely Scott (left) and Nurul Aqilah Pauzi (right)

We are grateful that we are surrounded by a team of driven, supportive individuals that are very helpful and love sharing their worlds of knowledge that they have. The team has really helped us grow to become better occupational therapy students. Our supervisors have made us feel like part of the team and they are always offering extensive support and encouragement. We are very grateful for this learning opportunity that they have provided us. It has been an excellent experience.

Palliative Care Equipment Program (PCEP)

PCEP aims to provide equitable access to aids and equipment for eligible persons across Queensland. In collaboration with the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service, PCEP has established the first equipment management site in Weipa. This will assist PCEP clients in Weipa and in surrounding remote locations to promptly obtain approved loan equipment, to assist remaining at home or On Country, during their end of life.

Two more equipment management sites are currently being established in St George and Charleville, in conjunction with South West Hospital and Health Service. We hope to have those running very soon and eventually expand these sites into other areas of the State.

For more information on MASS PCEP, visit health.qld.gov.au/mass/prescribe/palliative-care-equipment-program



Looking for some light reading?

BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care

A short report on PCEP, titled '[Assistive technology in palliative care: a statewide equipment programme](#)' has recently been published in BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care.

PCEP in Connections

An article, titled '[Assistive Technology in Palliative Care](#)' has recently been published in Connections Newsletter for [Occupational Therapy Australia](#) (OTA), which is the peak Australian body representing Occupational Therapy. It summarises PCEP history and features its amazing achievements that profoundly impact our community and individual patients.

Authored by our very own Renae Kelly, Bridget Manning and Kieran Broome, the article can be found on page 24 of [Connections Summer 2022 by Occupational Therapy Australia - Issuu](#)

Queensland Artificial Limb Service

It has now been 10 years since QALS became a part of MASS and the team has had many valued members make great contributions. Laurelle carries this passion as our QALS client service officer for the past 2 years, by ensuring that clients feel heard and are offered quality service by QALS.

QALS has recently made some changes to the website and resources, and we highly recommend have a read through the updated information or providing feedback on the online feedback form.

- QALS Home Page: health.qld.gov.au/mass/prescribe/artificial-limbs
- QALS Funding Limits: health.qld.gov.au/mass/prescribe/artificial-limbs/funding-limits
- QALS Resources, Groups and Contact Lists: health.qld.gov.au/mass/prescribe/artificial-limbs/qals-groups

Temporary Clinical Discretionary Funding - Mobility and Daily Living Aids.

MASS Temporary Clinical Discretionary funding will continue for applications that meet specific clinical criteria. This is to support MASS applicants, prescribers and suppliers due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note the following:

- The most basic item of equipment that meets the applicant's needs and is available for trial/purchase must be considered.
- Discretionary funding is not intended to provide increased funding towards a comparatively expensive item where a similar more cost-effective item would be suitable.
- Discretionary funding may only be applied by MASS to equipment or items that are within the scope of MASS service provision.

The MASS Clinical Advisor will consider the needs of the applicant at the time of application assessment and may contact the prescribing therapist if further information/clarification is required for a decision regarding available temporary funding allowance. An information sheet on the temporary funding allowances will be available on the MASS website.

For more information

Daily living aids, visit health.qld.gov.au/mass/prescribe/living

Mobility equipment, visit health.qld.gov.au/mass/prescribe/mobility

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy 2023.



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