

The Victorian Aids and Equipment Program

What is it?

The Victorian Aids and Equipment Program (A&EP) assists eligible people to access subsidised aids, equipment, home and vehicle modifications to increase their safety and independence and to assist their family and carers. The A&EP is funded by the state Department of Human Services and is available through a range of service providers across Victoria.

What types of aids are covered?

The types of aids and equipment include: non disposable continence aids, electronic communication aids, shower chairs, hoists, specialised beds, basic home modifications, compression garments, breast prostheses, mobility aids, orthoses, oxygen, pressure care equipment, ramps, wheelchairs and wigs. Recently vehicle modification subsidies have been added to the program, to assist people with a disability requiring vehicle modifications to drive or be a passenger in their primary vehicle.

Am I eligible?

You may be eligible for A&EP if you are a child or adult with a long term or permanent disability and/or are frail aged, and you are a permanent resident of Victoria with a Medicare card. Since February 2008, the eligibility criterion now includes people on Community Aged Care Packages (CACP) and Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) packages.

You may not be eligible if: you are receiving aids and equipment through other government-funded programs (e.g. Department of Veterans Affairs, Transport Accident Commission), you are entitled to receive any form of compensation, you are able to claim the cost of the aid through private health insurance, you are a resident of an aged care facility, or are within 30 days post discharge from hospital.

How does it work?

Some new equipment is provided, whilst other items are re-issued as appropriate and depending on availability to meet your needs. The A&EP is a subsidy program, therefore you may be required to make a non-refundable contribution to the cost of new items. Retrospective subsidy or reimbursement of the cost of privately purchased aids is not available.

How do I apply?

To apply for aids and equipment you will need to complete an application form from your local A&EP service provider. You may also need a letter from your medical practitioner certifying your disability. A health professional (e.g. Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist) assessment is required to determine the most appropriate type of equipment and whether you have the capacity to use the equipment safely.

Contact details for A&EP Centres in the Southern Metropolitan Region are:

Name of Centre	Address	Phone	Local Government Areas covered
Bayside Health Caulfield General Medical Centre	260 Kooyong Road, Caulfield 3162	(03) 9076 6316	Port Phillip, Stonnington, Glen Eira
Southern Health Dandenong Hospital	PO Box 478, Dandenong 3175	(03) 9554 8238	Greater Dandenong, Cardinia, Casey (East), Bayside, Kingston
Peninsula Health Mount Eliza Centre	PO Box 192, Mt Eliza 3930	(03) 9788 1261	Mornington Peninsula, Kingston (Chelsea), Casey (West), Frankston.

*If you require any further information on aids and equipment or other community services in your area, call the **Commonwealth CareLink Centre on 1800 052 222.***