

# Funding Options

Devices, accessories, and other communication technology can be very expensive in Australia. Currently there are several organisations and programs that will offer full or partial funding for some devices. The amount you can receive will depend on the eligibility requirements of each source of funding, the cost of the device, and your needs and requirements.

Below is a list of some of the sources of funding available for people living with disability in Australia. However, the eligibility requirements and application processes vary greatly so please contact your local health care provider to discuss your goals and needs so they can best inform you of your individual options.

Sources of funding can be divided into three key categories of providers:

1. **Commonwealth Government**
   1. Department of Social Services - NDIS
      1. National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
      2. Early Intervention Funding
   2. Department of Health
      1. My Aged Care - Commonwealth Support Programme
      2. Hearing Services Program
   3. Department of Veterans’ Affairs
      1. Rehabilitation Appliances Program
   4. Department of Employment
      1. Job Access – Employment Assistance Fund
2. **State Governments**
   1. Health and disability funding programs
      1. EnableNSW – Aids and Equipment Program (NSW)
      2. Medical Aid Subsidy Scheme QLD (Queensland Health)
3. **Non-Government Sources**
   1. Private Health Insurance (some accessories only)
   2. Fundraising organisations
      1. Variety (NSW, QLD)
      2. Ear Science Institute – Lions Hearing Clinic
      3. Australian Rotary Clubs
      4. John MacLean Foundation
      5. Steve Waugh Foundation
      6. Quota

## 1. National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)



The NDIS is a national Scheme designed to provide information, funding and support to eligible people living with a disability. The process includes:

* 1. Meet eligibility requirements
  2. Complete an Access Request Form to apply
  3. Work with the NDIA to create a Participant Plan, which will include the participant’s goals and aspirations, environmental and personal context, and a statement of the supports required by the participant.
  4. Use your plan and manage Support Budgets
  5. Review your plan and goals

For more information visit: [NDIS "How it works" Web Page](https://www.ndis.gov.au/understanding/how-ndis-works).

### How funding works:

Based on your Participant Plan, the NDIA will create a Supports Budget with funding available for different ‘reasonable and necessary' supports that will help you to reach the goals, objectives and aspirations set out in your plan, and to undertake activities to enable the participants social and economic participation.

If there is funding available in your budget and you have identified a reasonable and necessary service or device, if you have chosen to be self-managed, then you can either make a Payment request and then pay your provider for the service or device or Pay the provider and then make a payment request.

For more information of Support Budgets visit: [NDIA Support Budgets Web Page](https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/using-your-plan/managing-your-plan/support-budgets-your-plan).

### Services and products available:

* Accessories: Funding may be available in your Core Supports Budget or Capital Supports Budget for any accessory that is relevant to your needs and can be directly linked to achieving your goals, objectives and aspirations. Funding is likely for majority of accessories.
* Apps: Funding can be taken from your Core Supports Budget for smart device Apps that can be directly linked to achieving your goals, objectives and aspirations.
* Training and Referral Services: Funding may be available in your Capacity Building Supports Budget for training and referral services that can be directly linked to achieving your goals, objectives and aspirations, e.g. mobile phone training sessions may be included in the “Increased Social and Community Participation” Section.

### More Information:

[NDIS Web Page](https://www.ndis.gov.au/)

[NDIS Understanding the NDIS Booklet (PDF Download)](https://www.ndis.gov.au/media/80/download)

[NDIS Planning Booklet (PDF Download)](https://www.ndis.gov.au/media/333/download)

[NDIS Using Your Plan Booklet (PDF Download)](https://www.ndis.gov.au/media/336/download)

Phone: 1800 800 110

## My Aged Care – Commonwealth Support Programme



The Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) connects senior Australians with subsidised support providers to help them access entry-level support services and live independently and safely at home. Eligibility is determined by a face-to-face assessment to ensure the right services are made available

For more information visit: [My Aged Care Commonwealth Home Support Programme Web Page](https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/help-at-home/commonwealth-home-support-programme).

### How funding works:

If eligible, you will have access to service providers that offer the services or products that you need at a subsidised price. The CHSP requires you to make a contribution to the cost of the service, but you do not cover the full cost and there are no exit fees or additional costs. The price paid will depend on the type of support required and the provider.

For more information visit: [My Aged Care CHSP costs Web Page](https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/commonwealth-home-support-programme-costs).

### Services and products available:

* Accessories: Under the Home Modification section, you may be able to access a subsidised price for emergency alarm pendants and home systems. Under the Goods, equipment, and Assistive Technology category individuals with impaired hearing can purchase communication aids and hearing appliances at a subsidised price.
* Apps and Software: Under the Goods, equipment, and Assistive Technology category individuals can access subsidised prices for low vision reading software.

### More Information:

[My Aged Care Web Page](https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/)

[Commonwealth Home Support Programme Web Page](https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/help-at-home/commonwealth-home-support-programme)

[My Aged Care Contact Information Web Page](https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/contact-us)

Phone: 1800 200 422.

**Home Care Packages**

Home Care Packages are available and designed for individuals with more complex needs that go beyond what the Commonwealth Home Support Programme can provide. Within this, you select a package level based on your level of care required, including meal preparation, domestic assistance, transport, and goods, equipment and assistive technology. If eligible, and based on your selected plan, you will be required to pay a daily fee, an income-tested fee, and any fees incurred from additional care requirements.

This program will give you subsidised access to the above mentioned equipment accessories and software, however it is a part of a comprehensive plan rather than a one-off purchase.

For more information please visit the [My Aged Care Home Care Packages Web Page](https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/help-at-home/home-care-packages)

## 3. Department of Veteran’s Affairs (DVA) - Rehabilitation Appliances Program



The Rehabilitation Appliances program provides eligible DVA clients with aids and appliances that help them to be as independent and self-reliant as possible at home and in the community. Members of the veteran community are eligible if they are:

* a Gold Card holder, or
* a White Card holder, and
* Assessed by a general practitioner (GP) or medical specialist as requiring an aid or appliance to meet a clinical health care need.

For more information visit: [DVA Rehabilitation Appliances Program Factsheet Web Page](https://www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-hip72-providers-rehabilitation-appliances-program).

### How funding works:

If eligible, you can receive partially or fully subsidies aids and appliances through your GP or medical specialist. They will assess your needs and prescribe the most cost-effective, safe and clinically appropriate aids and appliances through RAP.

Additionally, DVA will cover the cost of repairs and replacements of aids and appliances supplied by RAP if they are lost or damaged by normal wear and tear.

### Services and products available:

* Accessories: The accessories available under the RAP Schedule of Equipment include, but are not limited to, hearing aids, emergency alarms, communication boards, wheelchair accessories, hearing loop, hearing aid adapters, and low vision appliances including keyboards. Variations of these accessories may be available with partial or full subsidies depending on your needs as assessed by your GP or medical specialist
* Devices: Tablets and iPads with a protective cover are included in the Schedule given they are to be used specifically for the purpose of running assistive speech or speech pathology Apps.

### More Information:

[Department of Veteran’s Affairs Web Page](https://www.dva.gov.au/)

[DVA Rehabilitation Appliances Program Factsheet Web Page](https://www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-hip72-providers-rehabilitation-appliances-program)

[DVA RAP National Schedule of Equipment (PDF Download)](https://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/providers/rehabilitation/rap_schedule2019.pdf)

Phone: 1800 555 254

Email: [generalenquiries@dva.gov.au](mailto:generalenquiries@dva.gov.au)

## 4. Department of Health – Hearing Services Program



The Hearing Services Program aims to reduce the impact of hearing loss by providing eligible people with access to hearing services. This includes a hearing assessment, access to a range of fully subsidised hearing devices, fitting of a hearing device, and further support services.

### How funding works:

If you meet the eligibility requirements set out on the web page, you can apply and be assigned a voucher for a fully subsidised hearing device and support from registered providers.

If you are not eligible, require a hearing device and cannot afford one, you may be able to have a hearing aid fitted at a reduced cost through a hearing aid bank.

For more information on eligibility visit [Hearing Services Eligibility Web Page](http://www.hearingservices.gov.au/wps/portal/hso/site/eligibility/programhelp/eligibility/!ut/p/a1/pZFLb8IwEIT_Cj3kaPmRlzlaFGiggKq-klyQE5zEbWKH1EXk3-NIPXApFHVvK41mZ-eDKYxhqvhBltxIrXg97GmwXT75AY4QWdK3zQwxtn59XMw8ghiG7zCFaa5MayqYVF96lGtlhDIOar-zWuYOqnQjHFTobiQOouu1slvb6bLjTSXq1kGilqXMZC1NP5i1udzBxHP93RiTDAgvLICHMAfUpwLsCC7GoRsEbhDadIlNh34Zhv4U_oIE-T-CCycSmyHcEnrPHsYejjbTaIrYZP6ymNOIzEMMn2986opheLPh4loNtkbSrSar0tpyUwGpCg3jM0YwPmdk5fJjv0-ZBT_APhoY_5982zTU7cFnsV4DntH-6Cd3JwKtaBE!/dl5/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/) and [Hearing Services Ineligible Web Page](http://www.hearingservices.gov.au/wps/portal/hso/site/eligibility/programhelp/eligibility/im%20not%20eligible%20where%20can%20i%20get%20help/!ut/p/a1/vZFLc4IwFIX_SjYsMwkPIS4zVi1adTp9ARsnYIC0IUGa2vLvG6ZduKmPTe_u3rk5J989KEMJyhQ7iIoZoRWTQ5-F2-X9KHRj7C3J82aGKV0_3S1mgYepi15QhrJCmdbUKK3fNSi0MlwZB7cfuRSFg2vdcAeXugP8wLteK9u1na461tRctg7mUlQiF1KY3sGiAUob8DOTHHzWvOOgYAoIUHEDhieDZVuIHUoJCcLdOCCQeIzBoAhHkBDC4M4fl1GJXd8NQsuQWgb8R1F8EeKJFTz6XThhkdo_RFuP3NDbceDGm2k8xXQyf1zMSezNIxc9XAl1RjC6WnBx7gz2jOJ1v8-ozXvI-Mug5L8Ct95et5qsKovETA2FKjVKjkRRciSKkotE26Yhfg_fyvUaspz0vqzoN20lnrU!/dl5/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/).

### Services and products available:

* Accessories: Eligible individuals have access to a range of full subsidised hearing devices that meet the needs of the client.

### More Information:

[Hearing Services Web Page](http://hearingservices.gov.au/wps/portal/hso/site/HSOHome/!ut/p/a1/lZJLU4MwFIX_ihuWmVxSiOmS6QOhFsaxKrDphHcUCK2ptf_eoDPu-iC75J575rs3Byc4wknHv0TFlZAdb4Z7QrerJ5uaHpAVew2X4DjBy6O_tAiEgN9wgpOsU72qcVx_yrtMdqrolAH9IW1EZkAt28IAnsqDfjzWku-LYzF09ZnIcUwhS0lRlohzRpFlWTli1ObInE5ZTmzIqFVqjFhjwJnjwDXKv_5zArBvmvKKw6_gAmKsGe63hM2dh6lleuHCW4Azcze-yzzizm38PHIplw03MNrQv2GNZL-erStty1WNRFdKHP3_qS6L990ucXQihhR8KxyNiETftmxyEuijDALEU3aaNNUPwNiIlw!!/dl5/d5/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS80SmlFL1o2X0tRNTYxSTAySzhWT0YwQUFOVUxKRjQyMEsw/)

[Hearing Services Support offered Web Page](http://hearingservices.gov.au/wps/portal/hso/site/eligibility/programhelp/!ut/p/a1/nVHLboMwEPyV9MDRsnmTo5UmFNIQVX0Bl8gQG9yC7VA3Kn8fI_XQS5OmextpdnZ2BpYwh6UgR94QzaUg3YTLYLd-8AM7Qc46etmuEMbZ83268hyEbfgKS1jWQivdwqL9kLNaCk2FtpD6rDpeW6iVPbUQk8OMHukwSmGQGmQzkL6lnZr2Vc33sGD7CPl2OAfEpTXwkO0C4jMGHEY8EoQurSpiDBXGEPplMPqT3zMU5H8TzpwojIdw50S3-G7u2cl2mSwRXsRPaRwlThza8PHKpy4IhlcLppdiMDE6w2axaYws0S3ggkmY_6zFMPjb4VBiU-9U6ZeG-b_6VX0fuSN4Z1kGSBWNbtfcnADcIRgb/dl5/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/)

Phone: 1800 500 726

Email: [hearing@health.gov.au](mailto:hearing@health.gov.au)

## 5. Department of Social Services - Early Intervention Funding



Early Intervention Funding is provided through two programs:

1. Helping Children with Autism (HCWA)
2. Better Start for Children with Disability (Better Start).

### How funding works:

Children under the age of 6 with an eligible diagnosis can access funding of up to $12,000 for services and therapies from a panel of registered providers. Up to 35 per cent of this can be used to buy resources and devices recommended by a registered service provider.

### Services and products available:

* Accessories: Funding can be allocated to communication boards, visual aids, and other equipment recommended by a registered service provider
* Apps: Funding can be allocated to purchasing relevant communication apps, such as Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) apps, recommended by a registered service provider.

### More Information:

[Early Intervention Funding Web Page](https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/for-people-with-disability/overview-of-early-intervention-services-and-supports#2)

[Early Intervention Funding Eligibility Web Page](https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers/programmes-services/for-people-with-disability/joining-the-programmes/is-my-child-eligible)

Phone: 1800 778 581

Email: [early.intervention@dss.gov.au](mailto:early.intervention@dss.gov.au)

## 6. Job Access – Employment Assistance Fund



Employment Assistance Fund gives financial help to eligible people with disability and mental health conditions and employers to buy work related modifications, equipment, Auslan services and workplace assistance and support services.

### How funding works:

Funding is available for individuals who have an ongoing disability that has lasted, or will last at least two years and limits, restrict or impair your ability to work. You must be currently employed, about to start a job, or currently working at least 8 hours per week.

The EAF provides funds to buy work related modifications and services like: adjustments to your physical workplace, special equipment for the workplace, information and communication devices and so on. The amount given takes into consideration percentage of personal vs professional use.

### Services and products available:

* Full or partial funding may be available for communication devices, accessories, and Apps if they can be justified as being required for professional use and will improve your ability to work.

### More Information:

[Job Access EAF Web Page](https://www.jobaccess.gov.au/employment-assistance-fund-eaf)

Phone: 1800 464 800

## 7. EnableNSW (NSW) – Aids and Equipment Program



The Aids and Equipment Program is a NSW Government initiative to assist eligible residents of NSW, who have a life-long or long-term disability, to live and participate within their community by providing appropriate equipment, aids and appliances.

Please note this service has been replaced by the NDIS. However, if you do not qualify for NDIS funding, EnableNSW may be able to provide further assistance.

### How funding works:

If you are eligible, you can register to EnableNSW and fill-out an Equipment Request Form. EnableNSW have developed Funding Criteria for each specific equipment category, which will determine your eligibility for funding based on your needs and requirements.

For More information see [EnableNSW Forms and Funding Criteria Web Page](http://www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/prescribers/forms).

### Services and products available:

* Accessories: Funding can be received for the following accessories, provided the Funding Criteria for each is met: text-to-speech devices, voice amplifiers, dynamic display devices, eye gaze accessories, communication switches or buttons, key guards/touch guides, protective covers, amplification/speakers, wheelchair mounting devices, and braille devices.
* Apps: Funding can be received for the following Apps, provided the Funding Criteria for each is met: communication software, screen magnifying software, and text recognition software.

### More Information:

[EnableNSW Prescribers Web Page](http://www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/prescribers)

[EnableNSW Contact Web Page](http://www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/about/contact)

Phone: 1800 362 253

Email: [enable@health.nsw.edu.au](mailto:enable@health.nsw.edu.au)

## 8. Queensland Health - Medical Aid Subsidy Scheme (QLD)



The Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) provides funding for medical aids and equipment to eligible Queensland residents who have a permanent and stabilised0020condition or a disability. They provide information on types of aids and equipment available and a list of suppliers approved by the MASS.

Please note this service has been replaced by the NDIS. However, if you do not qualify for NDIS funding, Queensland Health may be able to provide assistance.

### How funding works:

Aids and equipment are subsidy funded on a permanent loan basis, through private ownership or the supply of consumables. If you pay for more than 50% of the cost for an item, you can choose to take ownership, rather than having a permanent loan, making you responsible for the repairs. You must meet the specific clinical eligibility criteria set for each aid device or service.

### Services and products available:

* Accessories: Funding can be received for the following accessories, provided the eligibility criteria for each is met: speech generating devices, basic accessing devices e.g. switches, key guards, mounting system, eye gaze access devices, joystick control accessory, and voice amplification devices.
* Accessories: Funding can be received for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) software, provided the eligibility criteria are met.

### More Information:

[MASS Web Page](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/mass/subsidy-schemes/mass)

[MASS Communication Aids Web Page](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/mass/prescribe/communication) – including information on the subsidy amount for each aid.

[Department of Health Contact Information](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/comments)

## 9. Variety (QLD, NSW)



Variety provides individual grants for kids who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs to make sure all kids have the same opportunities in life. To support individuals between the age of 0 to 18 years, Variety grant a range of aid services and devices from mobility equipment, to therapy services, to education supplies.

### How funding works:

Apps can be made all year round, and are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### Services and products available:

The following aids are listed as items that can be requested, however alternative items not listed can be requested by contacting the Kids Support Team before applying.

* Devices: Tablets or laptops can be requested, up to a value of $1,500
* Accessories: Items that can be requested include speech generating devices, eye control devices, voice amplifiers, external speakers, switches, mounting system, and braille devices
* Apps: Communication software or apps can be funded.

### More Information:

[Variety Grants Web Page](https://www.variety.org.au/nsw/individual-or-community/)

[Variety Communication Technology Web Page](https://www.variety.org.au/nsw/communication-technology/)

Phone: 02 9819 1000

Email: [kidssupport@varietynsw.org.au](mailto:kidssupport@varietynsw.org.au)

## 10. Ear Science Institute – Lions Hearing Clinic



The Ear Science institute has a Gift of Hearing program that focuses on raising money for research and hearing aid devices. Ear Science has a number of devices each year that are donated through their fundraising activities, becoming a part of the Lions Hearing Aid Bank.

### How funding works:

Enquiries and Apps can be made all year round, and are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### Services and products available:

* Accessories: Accessories that can be received include Hearing aids and some hearing aid accessories.

### More Information:

[Lions Hearing Clinic Web Page](https://www.earscience.org.au/lions-hearing/about-us)

[Ear Science Hearing Implants Funding Web Page](https://www.earscience.org.au/clinic/hearing-implants/funding)

Phone: 1800 054 667

## 11. Australian Rotary Club



Australian rotary clubs are part of an international network of business, professional and community leaders who strive to make the world a better place through practical efforts. It has a variety of fundraising and sponsorship programs, with money being distributed globally and nationally.

Local rotaries will offer different levels of support and funds can be attained through application. To find your local rotary visit the [Australian Rotary Website](https://my.rotary.org/en/search/club-finder).

### More Information:

[Rotary Australia Web Page](http://rotaryaustralia.org.au/about)

Phone: +61 2 8894 9800

## Other Foundations

## 12. John MacLean Foundation



The John MacLean Foundation provides financial assistance to purchase items such as wheelchairs, vehicle and house modifications, surgery and medical assistance, computers, remedial aids or any item that improves the quality of life for the child and their family.

For more information visit [John MacLean Foundation Web Page](http://www.jmf.com.au) or call 02 8078 6910.

## 13. Steve Waugh Foundation



The Steve Waugh Foundation offers support to children and young adults with the rarest diseases, working to improve their quality of life and connect them with others through:

* Individual grants - for government approved medicine, specialized equipment and treatment therapies, for children and young adults (0-25yrs)
* Respite Camps (SNUG)– designed to support the families of children with rare diseases
* Raising Awareness

For more information visit [Steve Waugh Foundation Web Page](https://www.stevewaughfoundation.com.au/) or call 1300 66 99 35

## 14. Connecting Up

Connecting-Up is an Australian not-for-profit social enterprise whose mission is to build stronger communities through technology. They are a global partner of TechSoup and merged with Infoxchange in 2018. Their main activities are to provide free and discounted software, hardware, validation and training services to registered charities and not-for-profit organisations. They have an excellent partnership with Victorian Microsoft Authorised Refurbished Reboot IT who supply high volumes of refurbished hardware e.g., laptops, desktops, monitors, smartphones, networking equipment and much more.

For more information visit [the Connecting Up Website](file:///C:\Users\andres.merlano\AppData\Local\Temp\www.connectingup.org\impact) or call 1300 731 844

## 15. Enable Australia

The impact of not having access to employment and training can be debilitating. Unemployment is a major reason for poverty and poverty is the major cause of housing stress and homelessness. Provide affordable laptops & tech bundles for disadvantaged community and/or service providers.

For more information visit [Enable Australia](https://www.enableaustralia.org.au/)