

SEATED MOBILITY FUNDING CRITERIA: This Guideline has been developed in consultation with expert clinicians and is designed to specify EnableNSW funding criteria for this group of assistive technology; items provided; eligible prescribers and provide a basis for consistent and transparent decision making.

SEATED MOBILITY: wheelchairs, strollers, scooters, associated seating, pressure care and accessories

EnableNSW funds the following seated mobility equipment. This list is not exhaustive and EnableNSW reserves the right to make the final decision regarding the provision of equipment that is not specifically included or excluded. Prescribers should check their eligibility to prescribe specific equipment in this category as identified in the table below.*

Request process:

- Items in this category are available through the Equipment Allocation Program (EAP) and the NSW Government Contract 820: Clinical Furniture.
- Prescribers are required to request suitable available items from the EAP website in the first instance.
- EnableNSW is required to order products from the NSW Government Contract. Prescribers should request items from contract when equipment from EAP is not suitable to meet the person's need.
- Non-contract products will only be purchased in the event that there are no items on contract or available through the EAP, to meet a person's specific clinical need.
- A Seated Mobility Equipment Application Form is required for all requests.
- An itemised quote is required for non-contract items requested.

General Information / Allocation:

Allocation of seated mobility equipment will be based on the person's functional need. Where a person may use different types of seated mobility equipment in different environments of use, the item to be used within the home will be the priority for funding.

For residents of Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) and who are independent power wheelchair users, a power wheelchair should be requested through the Equipment Allocation Program.

Consideration of funding equipment earlier than the expected equipment lifespan, will be given where a person's needs have significantly changed and a different type of equipment or modifications to the existing equipment is required.

For pressure cushions for use on non-mobility equipment, refer to the Funding Criteria for Pressure Cushions for Stationary Seated Surfaces.

Seated mobility equipment is not provided to a person, as an alternative for travelling distances commonly travelled by private or public transport.

Only equipment that complies with the relevant Australian or International Standards and/or Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) registration (class 1 medical devices) is funded.

Only powered mobility equipment that travels at or can be speed limited to travel at speeds 10km/hr or less are funded.

Any queries or questions in relation to this criteria should be directed to a clinical advisor at EnableNSW.

Included equipment	Funding Criteria	Eligible Prescriber*/Additional information required
GROUP 1 Standard off the shelf manual wheelchair (MWC) <i>See Appendix A for standard and non-standard features and accessories. See Appendix B for pressure relieving cushions.</i>	Must meet all criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person is unable to walk; or is unable to walk required distances to complete activities of daily living in a functional timeframe MWC is s able to be used inside the home if required. 	Eligible Prescribers: Registered Occupational Therapist, Registered Physiotherapist *
Standard Off the shelf power wheelchair (PWC) <i>See Appendix A for standard and non-standard features and accessories. See Appendix B for pressure relieving cushions.</i>	Must meet all criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person is unable to walk; or is unable to walk required distances to complete activities of daily living in a functional timeframe PWC is able to be used inside the home if required. Person is unable to use a manual wheelchair to complete activities of daily living. 	Eligible Prescribers: Registered Occupational Therapist, Registered Physiotherapist
GROUP 2 – MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS		
Customised Manual Wheelchair (MWC) <i>See Appendix A for standard and non-standard features and accessories. See Appendix B for pressure relieving cushions and seating componentry</i>	Must meet all criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard off the shelf MWCs investigated and are not clinically suitable MWC is able to be used in the home if required Plus must meet at least 1 of the criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person uses a wheelchair for positioning for functional activities as person is unable to sit independently Person requires customisation/additional postural support to optimize independent mobility or to complete activities of daily living Person is full-time wheelchair user 	Eligible Prescribers: Registered Occupational therapist or Registered Physiotherapist with > 1 year experience and any 3 previous prescriptions within this category. ** Additional Information: At least 2 wheelchairs of a similar category should be trialled or investigated as part of the assessment and prescription process and outcomes documented in Equipment Request Form (ERF) <i>Rehabilitation Engineers with the relevant experience for this category can apply to be an out of scope prescriber (see website for details).</i>
Ultra-lightweight manual wheelchair (MWC) <i>See Appendix A for standard and non-standard features and accessories. See Appendix B for pressure relieving cushions and seating componentry</i>	Must meet all criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-time wheelchair user Customised wheelchair trialled A trial of the ultra-lightweight wheelchair showed evidence of improved function in mobilising (e.g. endurance, speed), manoeuvrability, or activities of daily living when compared to using a customised manual wheelchair of a similar set up. 	

* Registered nurses may request items in this category in circumstances in which an occupational therapist or physiotherapist is unavailable. Please contact an EnableNSW Statewide Clinical Advisor before submitting a request.

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GROUP 2 – POWER WHEELCHAIRS		
Customised Power Wheelchair (PWC) - occupant operated <i>See Appendix A for standard and non-standard features and accessories. See Appendix B for pressure relieving cushions and seating componentry</i>	Must meet all criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard off the shelf PWC trialled or investigated and are not suitable • Is able to be used in the home Plus must meet at least 1 of the additional criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person uses a wheelchair for positioning for functional activities as person is unable to sit independently • Person requires customisation/additional postural support to optimize independent mobility or to complete activities of daily living • Person is full-time wheelchair user 	Eligible Prescribers: Registered Occupational therapist or Registered Physiotherapist with > 1 year experience and any 3 previous prescriptions within this category. ** Additional Information: At least 2 wheelchairs of a similar category should be trialled or investigated as part of the assessment and prescription process and outcomes documented in the ERF. <i>Rehabilitation Engineers with the relevant experience for this category can apply to be an out of scope prescriber (see website for details).</i>
Customised Power Wheelchair (PWC) - assistant operated <i>See Appendix A for standard and non-standard features and accessories. See Appendix B for pressure relieving cushions and seating componentry</i>	Conditions for customised PWC above are met Plus at least 1 of the criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person's weight, ancillary equipment (e.g. ventilator) prohibit pushing an assistant operated manual wheelchair in main environment of use • Family / carer cannot safely push an assistant operated manual wheelchair 	
GROUP 2 – MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS WITH POWER CONVERSION KIT		
Manual wheelchair with power conversion kit or power assist manual wheelchair– occupant operated <i>For power assist wheels, the standard wheels available with the model of wheelchair will also be provided. Please ensure that this is included in the quotation.</i>	Must meet all criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of power wheelchair has been considered and is not the most practical or cost-effective option • There has been a trial in the environment of use or similar that demonstrates measureable improvement in mobilising (e.g. endurance, speed) compared to using a manual wheelchair alone to complete activities of daily living • The MWC with/without power conversion kit, is able to be used in the home • The power conversion kit is unable to travel at speeds greater than 10km/hr or is speed limited to a maximum of 10km/hr and cannot be reprogrammed / changed by the person. 	Eligible Prescribers: Registered Occupational therapist or Registered Physiotherapist with > 1 year experience and any 3 previous prescriptions within this category. ** Additional Information: At least 2 power conversion kits should be trialled or investigated as part of the assessment and prescription process and outcomes documented in the ERF.
Manual wheelchair with power conversion kit - assistant operated	Must meet all criteria for MWC with power conversion kit – self-propelled/driven PLUS at least 1 of the criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person's weight, ancillary equipment (e.g. ventilator) prohibit pushing 	<i>Rehabilitation Engineers with the relevant experience for this category</i>

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	an assistant operated manual wheelchair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family / carer cannot safely push an assistant operated manual wheelchair 	<i>can apply to be an out of scope prescriber (see website for details).</i>
GROUP 2 – STROLLERS		
Specialised stroller <i>All strollers should include a 5-point harness and sunshade as a standard feature</i> <i>See appendix A for standard and non-standard accessories</i>	Meets 1 or more of the criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child is unable to walk distance expected of a child of same age due to a health condition or physical disability Child is unable to sit independently or requires additional postural support to participate in functional activities due to physical disability 	Eligible Prescribers: Registered Occupational therapist or Registered Physiotherapist with > 1 year experience and any 3 previous prescriptions within this category. **
GROUP 2 – SCOOTERS		
Scooters <i>No pressure cushions, or custom modifications are provided</i>	Meets all criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person requires the scooter to complete community based activities of daily living Person walks but is unable to walk expected distances in the community in a functional timeframe. The medical questionnaire confirms there are no factors likely to affect safe use The person is not at high risk of developing a pressure injury Where relevant, the person has not had their driver's license cancelled/not renewed due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> visual impairments or medical conditions a history of multiple car accidents or near miss incidents The person is able to independently transfer on/off scooter. The person is able to transfer off scooter into a vehicle seat to travel; and is aware that they are unable to sit on the scooter when transported in public or community transport. Secure, under-cover storage and charging is available in the person's home Person understands that a scooter is not provided as an alternative to travel distances expected of a vehicle or public transport 	Eligible Prescribers: Registered Occupational therapist or Registered Physiotherapist with > 1 year experience and any 3 previous prescriptions within this category. ** Additional Information: Prescribers must request a scooter available in stock. When a suitable scooter is available, the scooter will be delivered with the prescriber present, so an assessment can be conducted in the person's home environment.

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GROUP 2 – CUSTOMISED SEATING AND SEATING SYSTEMS		
Customised backrests, seating systems, pressure relieving cushions or seat cushions <i>See Appendix B for pressure relieving cushions and seating componentry</i>	Standard off-the-shelf options trialed or considered and are not suitable Plus at least 1 of the criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person is fulltime wheelchair user • Person is unable to sit independently • Person requires additional support in seating in order to take part in activities of daily living, uses wheelchair for positioning for functional activities, including independent mobility • Person requires customisation in order to accommodate postural deformity or body shape and size 	Eligible Prescribers: Registered Occupational therapist or Registered Physiotherapist with > 1 year experience and any 3 previous prescriptions within this category. ** <i>Rehabilitation Engineers with the relevant experience for this category can apply to be an out of scope prescriber (see website for details).</i>
GROUP 3 – WHEELCHAIRS AND SEATING		
Power wheelchairs with integrated controls for communication devices, mobility or environmental control units <i>Refer to Speech Generating Device Guidelines and/or Environmental Control Guideline for additional criteria</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person uses an integrated control system for independent mobility, in addition to access to communication system or to complete self-care activities. 	Eligible Prescribers: Registered Occupational Therapist or registered physiotherapist with > 3 year experience and 5 previous prescriptions** plus 1 or more members of multidisciplinary team or prescribed in consultation with a seating service.
EXCLUSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing wheelchairs and standing features on wheelchairs • Equipment designed for off-road use e.g. 4 x 4 power wheelchairs; off-road power assist devices • Non-disability specific strollers • 3- wheeled scooters and strollers • Equipment and accessories used as restrictive practice. • Wheelchairs or accessories primarily for recreational use • Commercially available equipment • Refer to the Appendices for standard and non-standard features and accessories that may be included and excluded. 	

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RESTRICTIONS	<p>In order to be considered a pedestrian under the Road & Maritime Service (RMS) NSW Australian Road Rules wheelchair and scooter users must not travel faster than 10 km/hour.</p> <p>Suppliers are required to speed limit power wheelchairs, power conversion kits and scooters, prior to delivery by pre-programming the control box so that they are no longer capable of going over 10 km/hour</p>
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GLOSSARY:

Standard off-the-shelf manual wheelchair (MWC):

A MWC with a slung back, standard widths and accessories. A basic level of adjustability to seat depth, footplates and armrests may be available. Tilt or recline may be available.

Standard off-the-shelf power wheelchair (PWC):

A PWC with a standard slung or padded backrest, with or without tilt in space, folding or non-folding, available in different models, in standard widths, with/without accessories and non-programmable controller.

Customized MWC or PWC:

Able to be configured using a number of prefabricated components to specifically meet a person's postural, functional or pressure care needs. The component parts may be able to be adjusted or re-used to meet the same person's needs as they change or utilised in customised solutions in order to be used by another person.

Ultra- lightweight manual wheelchair: Made of lightweight aluminium, titanium or other ultra-lightweight materials.

Custom made: Manufactured specifically for an individual. Generally refers to moulded seating systems or componentry. Refers less frequently to wheelchair frames. Items are generally not able to be adjusted to be used by another person or as needs change as they are specifically made to match individual anthropometrics, including body size and shape.

Hybrid Power wheelchair with 4 x 4 functionality:

An all-terrain power wheelchair that is suitable to be used in all environments including in the home and in vehicle transport. Suitability to use in rough and uneven ground may be achieved by changing the tyres.

4x4 Power wheelchair: A four wheelchair drive power wheelchair designed for use on rough, uneven ground that others may transverse using a dirt motorbike, quad bike or 4 x 4 vehicle. A 4 x 4 power wheelchair is not compatible with indoor use or transport.

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Home environment:

The person's residence including within the dwelling, path to main entrance of dwelling; immediate surrounding area of the dwelling including parking area; path from entry to the boundary of the property or the "home" paddock in rural properties; and/or common property and lifts in high rise.

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