

# Speech Generating Devices 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. Refer to the EnableNSW Consumer Eligibility Fact Sheet to check a person's eligibility before submitting a request.



## COMMUNICATION: SPEECH GENERATING DEVICES

A persons' primary alternative or augmentative communication (AAC) system or voice amplification may be provided.

Included equipment	Funding Criteria	Request Process
<p><b>Group 1</b> Static Display Devices – single or multi-level</p>	<p>A static display device may be funded when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The device will be used daily for functional communication and</li> <li>2. The person is able to use the device independently*, or is working towards independence for a range of communicative functions and</li> <li>3. The device will be used at home and in other regular communication environments and</li> <li>4. A trial of the device at home and if possible in other environments of use has been conducted and a range of communication functions demonstrated</li> <li>5. A plan for training and support is in place</li> <li>6. A low technology option is in place in case of device breakdown</li> </ol>	<p><b>Eligible Prescribers Group 1:</b> Speech Pathologist</p> <p>Complete SGD Equipment Request Form and attach a quote.</p>
<p>Text to Speech Devices</p>	<p>A text to speech device may be funded when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The device will be used daily for functional communication and</li> <li>2. The person is able to use the device independently*, or is working towards independence for a range of communicative functions and</li> <li>3. The person has the required level of literacy and cognitive skill to use the device and</li> <li>4. Commercially available text to speech options have been considered and will not meet the person's needs.</li> <li>5. A trial of the device has been conducted and a range of communication functions demonstrated</li> <li>6. A low technology option is in place in case of device breakdown</li> </ol>	

Voice Amplifier	<p>A voice amplifier may be funded when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A person uses speech for primary communication and voice amplification is regularly required to support functional or sustained conversation and</li> <li>2. The person has demonstrated their ability to manage the amplifier and microphone at home and in other environments of use</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Group 2</b></p> <p>Dynamic display devices</p>	<p>A tablet based dynamic display device may be funded when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The device will be used daily for functional communication and</li> <li>2. The person is able to use the device independently**, or is working towards independence for a range of communicative functions and</li> <li>3. The device will be used at home and in other regular communication environments and</li> <li>4. A trial of the device at home and in other environments of use has been conducted and a range of communication functions demonstrated</li> <li>5. A plan for training and support is in place</li> <li>6. A low technology option is in place in case of device breakdown</li> </ol>	<p><b>Eligible Prescribers Group 2 *:</b> Speech Pathologist, with &gt; 1 year experience and 3 previous prescriptions *</p> <p>Complete SGD Equipment Request Form and attach a quote.</p>
Communication software	<p>Communication software may be funded when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The software will be used on a person's tablet device or computer for daily functional communication and</li> <li>2. The person is able to use the software independently**, or is working towards independence for a range of communication functions and</li> <li>3. The software will be used at home and in other regular communication environments and</li> <li>4. A trial of the software at home and in other environments of use has been conducted and a range of communication functions demonstrated and</li> <li>5. A plan for training and support for the software is in place and</li> <li>6. A low technology option is in place in case of software breakdown</li> </ol>	

<p><b>Group 3</b> Communication systems that require eye gaze access</p>	<p>Eye gaze access may be funded when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The device with eye gaze access will be used for daily functional communication</li> <li>2. Eye gaze has been trialed and found to be the most effective method for sustained communication when compared to alternative access methods</li> <li>3. The person is able to use the eye gaze device independently**, or is working towards independence for a range of communication functions</li> <li>4. The most basic cost effective eye gaze system that meets the person's needs has been trialed and a range of communication functions demonstrated</li> <li>5. Mounting requirements have been determined</li> <li>6. A plan for training and support is in place</li> <li>7. Back up communication options are in place for environments where eye gaze is not feasible, or breaks down.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Eligible Prescribers Group 3*:</b> Speech Pathologist with &gt; 3 year experience and 5 previous prescriptions for complex access or mounting <b>plus</b> input from an Occupational Therapist or a Specialist Technology Service *</p> <p>Complete SGD Equipment Request Form and attach a quote</p>
<p>Communication systems that require switch scanning or head tracking access.</p>	<p>Switch access or head tracking may be funded when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The access method will be used for daily functional communication</li> <li>2. The access method has been trialed and found to be the most effective method for sustained communication when compared to alternative access methods</li> <li>3. The person is able to use the access method independently** or is working towards independence for a range of communication functions</li> <li>4. The system has been trialed and a range of communication functions demonstrated</li> <li>5. Mounting requirements, switch types and switch interfaces have been determined</li> <li>6. A plan for training and support is in place</li> <li>7. Back up communication options are in place for environments where the access method is not feasible, or breaks down.</li> </ol>	
<p>Communication systems that are accessed via power wheel chair integrated systems</p>	<p>Access via power wheelchair integrated systems may be funded when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The device with an integrated access system will be used for daily functional communication</li> <li>2. The system has been trialed or comprehensively emulated and found to be the most effective method for sustained communication when compared to alternative access methods</li> <li>3. The person has demonstrated the ability to switch between modes on the</li> </ol>	

	<p>controller</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. The person is able to use the system independently** or is working towards independence for a range of communication functions</li> <li>5. The most basic cost effective integrated system that meets the person's needs has been trialed and a range of communication functions demonstrated</li> <li>6. Accessories have been determined</li> <li>7. A plan for training and support is in place</li> <li>8. Back up communication and/or access options are in place for situations where the person is not using their powerchair, or in the case of breakdown.</li> </ol>	
Included Components and Accessories	Clinical Criteria	Eligible Prescriber
Carry Strap or Case	<p>A carry strap OR a carry bag may be funded when an ambulant person will use the strap or bag to carry the device with them in their environments of use, and mounting is not required.</p> <p>Transport cases will only be funded when a commercially available option cannot be sourced. For example if the transport case is custom moulded for the device.</p>	<p><b>Eligible Prescribers Group 1:</b> Speech Pathologist</p> <p>Complete Equipment Request Form (hyperlink) and attach a quote.</p>
Protective Covers	<p>Protective covers may be funded when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A person has secretion management difficulties and/or</li> <li>2. The device is mounted on a tray that is also used for mealtimes</li> </ol> <p>Screen Protectors may be funded when they are necessary to reduce glare Only one set of protective covers OR screen protectors will be provided.</p>	
Keyguards/Touchguides	<p>Keyguards or Touchguides may be funded when access to the device is facilitated by the keyguard or touchguide</p>	
Amplification/Speakers	<p>External amplification or speakers may be funded when they are needed to achieve functional device volume in regular environments of use and commercially available options have been trialed or considered are not suitable.</p>	

Mounting	<p>A device or switch mounting system may be funded when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is the primary mounting system for the device and/or switch and</li> <li>2. The mounting system can be managed to allow for safe mobility in the wheel chair, safe transfers and for motor vehicle transport.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Eligible Prescribers Group 3*:</b>  Speech Pathologist with &gt; 3 year experience and 5 previous prescriptions for complex access or mounting <b>plus</b> input from an Occupational Therapist or a Specialist Technology Service</p> <p>Complete Equipment Request Form (hyperlink) and attach a quote</p>
<b>Excluded equipment</b>	<p>Secondary/back up communication systems including accessories  Commercially available devices such as computers, tablets, touch screen devices and mobile phones.  Commercially available batteries and cables  Devices or features solely for recreational use  Devices or features solely used to enable access to educational curriculum  Features that are an add-on to the primary purpose of the device  Devices or software where the primary purpose is for therapy, treatment or education  Software where the purpose is to create low technology communication aids and systems  Devices or software under \$100</p>	
<p>*Previous prescriptions do not have to be EnableNSW requests and can include prescriptions for other funding sources including charities, self funding and other government programs including state and national funding bodies. If you are unsure if you meet the eligible prescriber criteria please contact EnableNSW to discuss. Interstate prescribers are able to submit requests to EnableNSW for eligible residents of NSW. Supervision for new prescribers can be provided by eligible prescribers.</p> <p>** Independent use of the device includes circumstances where the person may be assisted with initial set up and positioning of the device to allow for independent access.</p>		