

Communication: 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.

COMMUNICATION: SPEECH GENERATING DEVICES

EnableNSW funds the following Speech Generating Devices. 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 Aids and Equipment Program (AEP)
- Complete SGD Equipment Request Form and attach a quote
- EnableNSW provides the most cost-effective item to meet a person’s clinical need
- An itemised quote is required for non-contract items requested.
- A prescriber cannot also be a supplier or affiliated with the supplier of the equipment for the same request. This may include, but is not limited to, a personal or professional relationship with or material interest in the supplier or manufacturer of the equipment listed on the request.
- Only equipment that complies with the relevant Australian or International Standards and/or has Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) registration (class 1 medical devices) is funded.

Allocation:

- **1 device**

Included equipment	Funding Criteria	Eligible Prescribers/Additional Information
Group 1		
Static Display Devices – single or multi-level	The person uses the device daily for functional communication and meets ALL of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person can use the device independently, or is working towards independence • The device is for home use as well as other communication environments • The device has been trialed at home and in other environments of use • A range of communication functions can be demonstrated • A plan for training and support is in place • A low technology option is in place in case of device breakdown 	Eligible Prescribers: Speech Pathologist
Text to Speech Devices	The person meets the above criteria and ALL criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person has the required level of literacy and cognitive skill to use the device • Commercially available text to speech options have been considered and will not meet the person’s needs 	

Voice Amplifier	The person uses speech for primary communication and meets ALL of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voice amplification is regularly required to support functional and/or sustained conversation Person has demonstrated their ability to use amplifier and microphone at home and in all other environments of use 	
Components and accessories for Group 1 equipment		
Carry strap or carry bag	May be funded when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person is ambulant and needs to carry the device with them in their environments of use AND A commercially available option cannot be sourced 	
Protective cover/screen protector	Protective covers may be funded when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person has secretion management difficulties AND/OR The device is mounted on a tray that is used for mealtimes Screen protectors may be funded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce glare 	
Keyguard/Touchguide	May be funded when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the device is facilitated by keyguard or touchguide 	
Amplification/Speakers	May be funded when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are needed to achieve functional device volume in regular environments of use AND Commercially available options have been trialled or considered are not suitable 	
Group 2		
Dynamic display devices or communication software downloaded on tablet or computer	Must meet ALL criteria below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person can use the device independently, or is working towards independence The device is for home use as well as other communication environments The device has been trialed at home and in other environments of use 	Eligible Prescribers: Speech Pathologist, with > 1 year experience and 3 previous prescriptions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of communication functions can be demonstrated • A plan for training and support is in place • A low technology option is in place in case of device breakdown 	
Group 3		
Communication systems that require eye gaze access	<p>Must meet ALL criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The device with eye gaze access will be used for daily functional communication • Eye gaze has been trialed and found to be the most effective method for sustained communication when compared to alternative access methods • The person can use the eye gaze device independently, or is working towards independence for a range of communication functions • The most basic cost effective eye gaze system that meets the person's needs has been trialed and a range of communication functions demonstrated • Mounting requirements have been determined • A plan for training and support is in place • Back up communication options are in place for environments where eye gaze is not feasible, or in case the device breaks down 	<p>Eligible Prescribers: Speech Pathologist with > 3 year experience and 5 previous prescriptions for complex access or mounting plus input from an Occupational Therapist or a Specialist Technology Service</p>
Communication systems that require switch scanning or head tracking access	<p>Must meet ALL criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The access method will be used for daily functional communication • The access method has been trialed and found to be the most effective method for sustained communication when compared to alternative access methods • The person can use the access method independently or is working towards independence for a range of communication functions • The system has been trialed and a range of communication functions demonstrated • Mounting requirements, switch types and switch interfaces have been determined • A plan for training and support is in place • Back up communication options are in place for environments where the access method is not feasible, or breaks down 	

<p>Communication systems that are accessed via power wheelchair integrated systems</p>	<p>Must meet ALL criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The device with an integrated access system will be used for daily functional communication • 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 • The person has demonstrated the ability to switch between modes on the controller • The person can use the system independently or is working towards independence for a range of communication functions • The most basic cost effective integrated system that meets the person's needs has been trialed and a range of communication functions demonstrated • Accessories have been determined • A plan for training and support is in place • Back up communication and/or access options are in place for situations where the person is not using their power wheelchair, or in the case of breakdown 	
<p>Mounting</p>	<p>Must meet ALL criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the primary mounting system for the device and/or switch • The mounting system can be managed to allow for safe mobility in the wheel chair, safe transfers and for motor vehicle transport 	
<p>Excluded equipment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary or 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 or education educational use, therapy, or treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features that are an add-on to the primary purpose of the device • Software where the purpose is to create low technology communication aids and systems • Devices or software under \$100