



# Equipment Program Newsletter

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*Jasmine  
Fisher –  
Disability  
Services*

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter for the Equipment Program. Please keep providing us feedback for future editions.

The Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) state-wide equipment program services the equipment and home modification needs of clients of Disability SA, Disability and Domiciliary Care Services, Novita Children's Services and Minda Inc. Assessment and prescription is undertaken within the specialist areas of Disability Services, Domiciliary Care and Novita. Domiciliary Equipment Service (DES) then manages the supply and maintenance of all equipment and home modifications.

## Contact details

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## Equipment Program Activity

Since July 2013, a comprehensive range of stock items has met 91% of equipment needs for clients during this financial year. Of 8,246 equipment items supplied to clients by DES, 5,921 (72%) were reissued items, providing a net benefit of \$2.4m to the program in 2013-14.

Demand for services continues to grow across all client groups. To help meet some of that demand DES will be continuing to work on strategies such as more efficient reissue of equipment and purchasing items in bulk where appropriate to do so.

## Launch of the NDIS in SA

The NDIS was launched in SA for children in July 2013. Equipment needs are considered during the planning process by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). Planners approve funding for reasonable and necessary items and include them in the plan. Plans are reviewed at a maximum of twelve months, with equipment needs part of that review.

In South Australia, DES is the "in kind" equipment provider for the duration of the launch period 2013-15. DES is responsible for meeting NDIA participants' approved equipment and home modification needs, through the purchase, customisation and supply of loan items to children and their families. DES is working closely with the NDIA to ensure that systems are in place to support those children who are transitioning from the DCSI Equipment Program to the NDIA.

## Consumer Survey in 2014

The Equipment Program has commenced preparations to undertake a repeat of the survey during 2014. It is anticipated that a random sample of program users will be mailed out a survey around March or April 2014.

## Illumination of Equipment



Steve Sheppard (DES Workshops Manager) recently gave a great presentation to the Consumer Advisory Committee about lighting. If you have questions about your needs remember to raise those with your clinician or service coordinator.

The key thing is to ensure that you are visible when out in the community. Any reflective materials (eg strips or clothing) that move, and that are placed on you or your device are particularly effective.

LED lighting is preferred to incandescent lighting as it draws much less on your device's battery.

## Consumer Advisory Committee member – Chris Spencer

Chris has been a member of the Consumer Advisory Committee since October 2010. Chris joined to assist the Committee to obtain the best outcomes for consumers, and give himself an overview of the program policies and processes.



Chris has Muscular Dystrophy and since being in a wheelchair has taken up electric wheelchair sports, playing in the State team for Muscular Dystrophy SA for the past 6 years, receiving the Best and Fairest Award.

Chris previously worked in the car industry for 25 years, and was in the Reserve Army for 3 years. Chris is married with two children and one granddaughter.

## Hot Weather Tips

Everyone is at risk during extremely hot weather but some groups of people have a higher risk than others, particularly the most vulnerable in our community which can include many of our clients. Planning ahead and being prepared for extreme heat is important for everyone:-

Drink water or fruit juice even if you do not feel thirsty and keep out of the heat as much as possible.

Use fans and air conditioners set to cool, keep curtains drawn and take a cool shower or bath.

Only take food out of the fridge when you need to use it— and only for the shortest time possible.

Ask a neighbour, relative or close friend to keep in contact with you during extreme heat.

Telecross REDi service will arrange a volunteer to check on you via the telephone during extreme weather conditions. This is a free service and you can be registered either by discussing with your service coordinator or calling 1800 188071.

## Services over Christmas

DES will be open Monday to Friday 8.30a.m. to 5.00p.m. through the Christmas and New Year period and closed on Public Holidays. The after hours emergency repair service (phone 1300 130 302) will operate 9.00am to 5.00pm on Weekends and Public Holidays.

This Christmas, the staff at DES are making donations of gifts and non perishable food items to Grandparents for Grandchildren SA Inc and the Hahndorf Animal Shelter (dog and cat food and blankets).

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas.