



# Equipment Program Newsletter

Issue No 11 | December 2014



Photo courtesy of Novita Children's Services

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

Equipment Program  
Phone: 1300 295 786  
Fax: 1300 295 839  
[equipment.feedback@dcsi.sa.gov.au](mailto:equipment.feedback@dcsi.sa.gov.au)

## Equipment Program Activity

DCSI and Novita continue to work closely with children who are transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). As at 31 October 2014, DES was providing services to 414 children registered with the NDIS. DES will continue providing services to these children during the three year trial.

When taking into account the impact of the NDIS transition, overall demand for loan equipment, consumables and home modifications for adults and children during 2014-15 has remained steady when compared with 2013-14. However, demand for loan equipment for older people and those using palliative care services provided by Domiciliary Care, has dropped by 18%, consumables by 16%, and home modifications by 28%, when compared with 2013-14. This reflects the drop in clients entering Domiciliary Care this year.

The Equipment Program works with clients to help them select a solution that will meet their unique needs. Lower risk, non-customised items are supplied using a single bulk purchasing model where possible. Thus far, these stock items have met 91% of equipment needs for clients during 2014-15. The model of course also includes capacity to purchase an off-the-shelf or custom-made item when someone has a need that cannot be met with a stock item. Of 7210 equipment items supplied to clients, 5596 (78%) were reissued items. The continued high levels of refurbishment have provided an estimated net benefit of \$2.1m to the Program during 2014-15.

DES has worked on a procurement tender with the State-wide Equipment Program from Victoria for the supply of stock items. A team of clinicians, technicians and clients evaluated a range of standard off-the-shelf products, ranging from four wheel walkers to hospital beds and hoists. New contracts with suppliers are in place and should provide consumers with quality, pre-evaluated, standards tested equipment, and mean less delays for supply as well as spare parts for repairs. The increased volume has also led to DES negotiating savings double those that were anticipated.

## Planning for Repairs

---

Most items of equipment provided by the DCSI Equipment Program will need repairs during their life cycles. Stock items are normally replaced with an equivalent item but customised items such as powered mobility devices cannot always be replaced quickly and often require repair and return. In some circumstances a replacement can be provided while the repairs take place, but this is not always possible. To assist you to plan for this circumstance, your clinician will help you record a contingency plan, at the time that you receive this type of item.



*Photo courtesy Adelaide Metro*

## ARATA – Canberra 2014

---

The bi-annual Australian Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association meeting was held in August 2014. Novita and DCSI delivered numerous papers on the innovative work undertaken in South Australia. Topics ranged from the work of the Access and Communication Technology Service to customised seating and repair technician training. Given the intense interest in the NDIS around Australia, it was great showcasing the good work occurring in SA.

## Using your Motorised Mobility Device on public transport

---

People using their mobility device on a bus, train, tram or Access Cab should be aware of some common sense things prior to travel. Larger scooters can be difficult to manoeuvre, and should not exceed 1250mm (50”) long x 740mm (30”) wide x 1500mm (60”) high. Any baskets, canopies, sun roofs and luggage carriers must all fit within these dimensions or be removed, and flags either removed or retracted. People also need to negotiate a 1:8 gradient boarding ramp.

For an Access Cab, the device must have anchoring points, and people must transfer to the Access Cab seat if using a scooter.

On crowded platforms and interchanges if you are passing people who are walking please slow down to walking pace.

[https://www.adelaidemetro.com.au/content/download/245706/1339573/version/2/file/Motorised\\_Mobility\\_Device.pdf](https://www.adelaidemetro.com.au/content/download/245706/1339573/version/2/file/Motorised_Mobility_Device.pdf)

## Services over Christmas

---

DES will be open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm through the Christmas and New Year period but closed on Public Holidays. The DES repairs number (phone 1300 130 302) is always answered 24 hours every day, but please be aware that technicians can only be sent for emergency repairs between 9.00a.m. to 5.00p.m. on weekends and Public Holidays.

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

We wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas.