

# Victorian Aids and Equipment Program

## Vehicle Modification Subsidy Scheme

### **Who is eligible?**

A vehicle modification subsidy is now available for Victorian residents with a permanent or long term disability who meet the eligibility criteria of the Aids and Equipment Program (A&EP).

### **The subsidy will assist:**

- People requiring vehicle modifications to drive their primary vehicle due to their disability
- People with a disability requiring modifications to travel as passengers in their primary vehicle.

### **Subsidy level**

A maximum subsidy of up to \$10,000 is available to assist with the purchase of prescribed vehicle modifications to suit individual circumstances.

The subsidy is intended as a contribution towards the purchase cost of modifications and is not intended to meet the full cost of all vehicle modifications. Subsidies will be made available on assessed needs to approved individuals, on the basis of one subsidy per person for the modification of the primary vehicle utilised for the person's transport.

### **Use of partial subsidy**

Where only a portion of the maximum subsidy is required by an individual to meet their vehicle modification needs, the individual may submit further applications for assistance, up to a cumulative total of \$10,000 over a seven year period, from the date of their first application.

All subsequent applications will be subject to the A&EP and vehicle modification subsidy approval and prioritisation criteria.

### **Replacement**

The subsidy timeline recognises people's changing needs and offers flexibility in the capacity of the scheme, to meet people's needs throughout key life stages, by enabling funding for replacement of a vehicle modification to be considered after a minimum of seven years.

### **Type and range of modifications**

A variety of vehicle modifications are covered by the scheme including minor modifications such as hand controls and major modifications such as hoists and ramps.

Applicants, with assistance from their prescribing therapists along with advice from specialist engineers and VicRoads as required, will be able to select the most appropriate and safe modification or combination of modifications to best suit their individual circumstances.

## **Subsidies will be provided for:**

- Conversion of vehicle for wheelchair access
- Ramps fixed to vehicle
- Specialised trailers, lifters and carriers for wheelchairs
- Modified driving controls to enable a person with a disability to drive a vehicle
- Specialised seats
- Air conditioning for people with thermo-regulatory conditions

## **What is not covered?**

Funding is not available under the vehicle modification subsidy scheme for the purchase of:

- Modifications that do not comply with Australian Design Rules or would not comply with VicRoads Standards for Registration (refer VicRoads, Vehicle Standards Information 8 Guide to Modifications to Motor Vehicles)
- Equipment already available under the general A&EP criteria including portable ramps, child car seats, wheelchair harnesses etc.
- Items generally available for purchase including standard trailers, cameras and rear parking sensors, Global Positioning System devices, mirrors, cruise control, window tinting etc.
- Vehicle running costs, statutory charges or insurance premiums
- The purchase of new or second hand vehicles
- Modification of vehicles owned by organisations

## **Second hand modified vehicles**

Funding may be approved as a partial subsidy towards the cost of any modification components of an already modified vehicle. A vehicle modification subsidy is not available as a contribution towards the purchase cost of a second hand vehicles.

## **Repairs, maintenance and insurance**

The Vehicle Modification Subsidy Scheme assists in the purchase of vehicle modifications. On completion of the modification, the vehicle owner assumes ownership of the modifications and is responsible for on-going maintenance or repairs and insurance relating to the modifications.

## **Assessment and prescription**

In accordance with the A&EP guidelines an assessment and prescription by an occupational therapist will be required to demonstrate clinical justification for the modification as part of the application process, to ensure that the proposed vehicle modification is the most appropriate to meet an individual's needs. A specific prescription and assessment form has been developed for the Vehicle Modification Subsidy Scheme.

## **How to apply**

You will need to submit an A&EP application form as well as a vehicle modification subsidy scheme prescription form to: Vehicle Modification Subsidy Scheme, Ballarat Health Services. Your occupational therapist will be able to assist you with the assessment and prescription process and the additional documentation required to complete your application.

## **Retrospective payments**

Please note that retrospective payments will not be provided.

For further information please contact:

VEHICLE MODIFICATION SUBSIDY SCHEME  
AIDS & EQUIPMENT PROGRAM  
BALLARAT HEALTH SERVICES

102 Ascot Street South, Ballarat, Victoria 3350

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