## What is the Territory Equipment Program?

The Territory Equipment Program (TEP) provides prescribed equipment, aids and appliances to assist eligible residents of the Northern Territory with a permanent or long term functional impairment to enhance their safety and independence, and to assist them to live and participate in their community.

TEP uses a registration process to approve therapists before they can prescribe equipment. Approved Prescribers may be physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists or specialist nurses, depending on the type of equipment required and are not only Department of Health staff. Access to TEP is based on assessed functional or clinical need by an Approved Prescriber.

TEP works within a budget to meet the needs of a large number of clients. TEP does not provide items costing under $100.

## Who is eligible for TEP?

Clients must meet the following eligibility criteria:

* have a functional impairment of permanent or long term duration
* are permanent residents of the Northern Territory
* are living in or returning to the community
* require items of approved equipment on a permanent or long term basis; and
* are beneficiaries of a full Centrelink Disability Support or Aged Pension. Some exclusions apply for children, Special Consideration applicants and existing clients prior to 8 April 2013.

Consumers who are not beneficiaries of a full Centrelink Disability Support or Aged Pension may still be eligible for Special Consideration on the basis of Financial Hardship or for Assistance for High Cost Items. Existing TEP clients as at 8 April 2013 are not required to verify financial eligibility with the exception of clients deemed eligible on the basis of Financial Hardship.

Residents of a Residential Aged Care Facility, persons on a Home Care Package 1,2,3 or 4, persons with an approved National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plan or those eligible to receive equipment under another program or compensation claim are not eligible for TEP assistance. Several local businesses and pharmacies supply hire equipment to consumers who are ineligible for TEP including non-residents of the Territory or people with short term disabilities.

## What type of equipment may be loaned?

TEP has an approved equipment list across the following categories:

1. Communication Aids and Devices
2. Aids for Daily Living
3. Bed Equipment
4. Pressure Management Equipment
5. Wheeled Mobility Aids
6. Ambulant Mobility Aids
7. Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)
8. Home Modifications
9. Continence Aids
10. Oxygen

TEP maintains responsibility for repair and cyclical maintenance of nominated TEP equipment items while clients are responsible for regular cleaning and maintenance.

## Return of equipment

Equipment remains the property of TEP (unless otherwise agreed) and must be returned when no longer required.

Clients may take some items with them when moving interstate, if prior approval is obtained.

## Is there a cost?

Clients may be required to contribute toward the cost of equipment.

Client contributions are only required when the cost of equipment exceeds the nominated Maximum Subsidy available for the item/s. Maximum Subsidies are applied to all TEP equipment items and are outlined on the TEP Approved Equipment List.

## How do I apply?

Your therapist can assist you to apply.

Based on assessment, your therapist will identify the most basic item of equipment that will meet your assessed need and submit a prescription to TEP. New and existing clients with a change in circumstances are also required to complete an application with the support of their therapist.

## How do I provide feedback or make a complaint?

In the first instance, you are requested to discuss any concerns directly with your therapist. If you feel the problem has not been resolved, you may choose to provide further information in writing or contact your regional Community Allied Health Intake officer on the details below for further information.

Alternatively, clients can make a complaint with the Health and Community Services Complaints Commission on 8999 1969 or 1800 004 474 or email: [hcscc@nt.gov.au](mailto:hcscc@nt.gov.au)

## Who should I contact?

Please contact your therapist. If you do not have a therapist, please contact one of our intake offices.

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|  | **Central Australia**  (includes Alice Springs, Remote Barkly) |  | **Top End**  (includes Darwin rural area, Katherine &East Arnhem) |
| **P** | 08 8951 6747 | **P** | 08 8922 5571 |
| **E** | centralaustraliaintake.THS@nt.gov.au | **E** | topendintake.THS@nt.gov.au |
| **A** | PO Box 721,  Alice Springs NT 0871 | **A** | PO Box 40596 Casuarina NT 0811 |

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