

## ILC DISABILITY EQUIPMENT GRANT (DEG) for individuals

### INFORMATION PACKAGE

Disability Equipment Grants (DEG) assist West Australian individuals with permanent disabilities. Grants are available for specific items of equipment for people who would not otherwise be able to afford this equipment.

The Independent Living Centre of WA (ILC) administers the DEG Program and all enquiries and applications should be directed to them.

Where another government agency has a policy and funding responsibility for equipment, applications for Disability Equipment Grants (DEG) will not be accepted.

Please note - Disability Equipment Grants are income assessed.

### APPLYING FOR A GRANT

**Not-for-Profit Organisations** or **Local Government Authorities** can apply for Disability Equipment Grants on behalf of individuals. Applicant organisations are responsible for the purchase of the item/s requested and for the proper expenditure and acquittal of the grant.

Grant funding cannot be provided directly to individuals. **Individuals who are not linked to an Organisation** are asked to contact the Project Officer at the Independent Living Centre for further information.

### Who Can Apply?

West Australians with permanent disabilities that impact on their functional ability. For grant purposes, an individual with a disability is defined as:

*“a person who has a **substantially reduced capacity** to communicate, to learn, to be personally mobile, or to be transported, as a result of a permanent physical, sensory, psychiatric or intellectual disability”.*

Individuals or families whose income is within **Level 1 or Level 2 (see table below)** are eligible to apply

Gross Annual Income	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Individual income (The beneficiary is a single person over the age of 18 years)	Up to \$23,000	\$23,000 to \$46,000	Over \$46,000
Family Income (The beneficiary is a child under 18, or is married or living in a shared income relationship)	Up to \$35,000	\$35,000 to \$75,000	Over \$75,000

Income levels are based on Centrelink guidelines.

**Level One** incomes generally qualify for assistance without further investigation.

**Level Two** incomes are expected to **contribute a minimum of 10%** towards the total equipment cost.

**Level Three** incomes are generally assessed as ineligible.

**Exceptional circumstances:** an individual or family whose income is outside the guidelines may be eligible for grant assistance.

For example:

- More than one person in the family with a disability
- Recent change of family circumstances e.g.: loss of employment
- Family with child/children with disabilities and other siblings needing to purchase a suitable vehicle to accommodate a wheelchair

If you feel there are exceptional circumstances, please contact the Project Officer at the ILC to discuss further.

## WHAT EQUIPMENT IS ELIGIBLE?

The list of items that will be considered for funding is regularly reviewed to ensure that the program keeps pace with changing needs and priorities for people with disabilities and new developments in technology. Please Note: This program **does not** provide grants for wheelchairs or scooters.

Grants will be considered for assistive technology / equipment within the following categories only.

### 1. **Vehicle Modifications: (maximum grant: \$7,500) \***

Grants will be considered towards the supply and installation of:

- Vehicle hoists and associated modifications
- Trailer / carrier to transport wheelchair or scooter
- Modified driving controls
- New or second-hand specially modified vehicles (partial funding towards vehicle modification components only)
- Specialised wheelchair ramps or restraints

Grants will not be provided for occupant car seats and/or restraints or vehicle air-conditioning.

**\*Additional funding for vehicle modifications:** Eligible applicants may apply to the DEG, on the grounds of financial hardship, for additional grant funds above the \$7,500 ceiling, **up to a maximum of \$10,000**. Additional documentation to support the request must be submitted together with the standard DEG Application Form.

**Driver Assessment & Training:** Applicants applying for modified driving controls may be required to have an Occupational Therapy driving assessment and/or driver training. Financial assistance may be available for individuals. Contact the ILC for further information.

It is the responsibility of the applicant organisation and the individual to ensure that all vehicle modifications comply with Department of Transport regulations and that the individual holds an appropriately endorsed drivers licence if required.

### 2. **Assistive Technology for People with Vision Impairment: (maximum grant: \$5,000)**

Grants will be considered towards equipment manufactured specifically for a person with vision impairment, e.g. hardware and software that magnifies produces spoken output or presents information as Braille or other tactile formats. Grants will not be provided for equipment for use in educational settings.

Applications must specify the functional need that will be met through the provision of the equipment requested.

### 3. **Assistive Technology for People with Communication Impairment (maximum grant: \$5,000)**

Grants will be considered towards equipment manufactured specifically for a person with a disability e.g.: voice output device/software, communication devices for personal safety, or specialised computer hardware or software. Grants will not be provided for equipment for use in educational settings.

Applications must specify the functional need that will be met through the provision of the equipment requested.

### 4. **Air Conditioners: (maximum grant: \$1,500 ) \* Level 1 income only**

Grants will be considered for air conditioning to provide **one** area of respite from the heat or cold in the primary place of residence of a person with a permanent disability. Grants **will not** be provided as a contribution towards whole of home air conditioning or where the total cost of the unit exceeds \$3,000.

All applications must include a written report from a health professional (usually a medical practitioner) who is able to confirm the person's disability/diagnosis and **that the beneficiary's disability is increased and functional ability is significantly reduced** as a direct result of the effects of extreme temperature.

Only individuals / families on low incomes ie: within the DEG Level One income or in receipt of the maximum pension payment are eligible to apply for a grant for an air conditioner. Exceptional circumstances may be considered.

**\*Please note:** People living in regional areas may be eligible for an additional supplement of up to \$300 if required. This supplement is to assist with the additional cost of installation in regional areas.

## **HOW TO APPLY?**

Applications may be made at any time by using the Disability Equipment Grant Application Form.

Forms can be downloaded from our web site: [www.ilc.com.au](http://www.ilc.com.au), or obtained by contacting the Independent Living Centre Project Officer on 9381 0600 or 1300 885 886.

Before sending applications to the Independent Living Centre, applicants should ensure

- The individual has a disability as defined by the Disability Services Act (1993)
- The application is supported by a medical or health professional report
- The application includes appropriate quotes for the equipment requested
- The individual does not have the means to provide the item from his or her own resources
- Any additional funds required for the item requested are available
- No alternative funding is available

In most circumstances retrospective grants (equipment already purchased) are not considered. Any expenditure must occur **after** grant approval. Only exceptional circumstances will be considered

## How Is The Grant Assessed?

Applications are processed in the order in which they are received. Subject to availability of resources, assessment normally takes four to six weeks **providing** all the necessary information is included at the time of application. Urgent assessment may be considered in special circumstances.

The Applicant Organisation or the Individual are advised in writing on receipt of the application. The Project Officer or delegated person will contact you if more information is required.

Additional time may be required if further assessment and/or approval by the DEG Application Review Committee is needed. The Project Officer or delegated person will contact you if more information is required.

Once assessed, the Applicant Organisation and/or the Individual are advised of the outcome in writing.

## How Often Can I Apply?

Generally a person, who has had a grant, must wait a minimum of **three years** before re-applying for the same equipment. However, people who have degenerative conditions or whose needs have changed significantly may be assisted more often.

People with demonstrated needs may apply for assistance in more than one equipment category.

## Supporting Health Professional:

All applications must include supporting written information from an appropriate health professional who is able to confirm the persons:

- disability / diagnosis, and the functional impact of their disability.
- need for the assistive technology / equipment and its suitability for the purpose intended.

In rural and remote areas a community nurse, therapist or Local Area Coordinator may provide the supporting information.

## WHO TO CONTACT?

We encourage you to discuss your application with the Project Officer at the ILC before submitting it for assessment, if you have any queries regarding eligibility or there are unusual circumstances.

Telephone: 1300 885 886  
E-mail: [ilcgrants@ilc.com.au](mailto:ilcgrants@ilc.com.au)

Fax: (08) 9381 0611  
Web: [www.ilc.com.au](http://www.ilc.com.au)

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Our aim is to provide a responsive community based grants equipment program for people with disabilities.

