Australian Capital Territory

Lifetime Care and Support (Catastrophic Injuries) Aids and Appliances (Equipment) Guidelines 2026

Disallowable instrument DI2026 – 225

made under the

Lifetime Care and Support (Catastrophic Injuries) Act 2014, section 93 (LTCS guidelines)

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1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Lifetime Care and Support (Catastrophic Injuries) Aids and Appliances (Equipment) Guidelines 2026.*

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after its notification.

3 Guidelines

I make the guidelines attached to this instrument. The guidelines are Part 13, Aids and Appliances (Equipment), of the LTCS Guidelines made under the *Lifetime Care and Support (Catastrophic Injuries) Act 2014.*

4 Revocations

The *Lifetime Care and Support (Catastrophic Injuries) Guidelines 2014 (No 13)* (DI2014-214) is revoked.

Nicola Clark
Lifetime Care and Support Commissioner of the ACT

14 October 2026

Part 13: Aids and Appliances (Equipment)

This Part of the Lifetime Care and Support Guidelines is made under section 93 of the *Lifetime Care and Support (Catastrophic Injuries) Act 2014* (the LTCS Act).

Part 13 of the Lifetime Care and Support Guidelines (the LTCS Guidelines) applies to any assessment of treatment and care needs relating to aids and appliances made on and from the date of commencement of the part in respect of any participant in the Lifetime Care and Support Scheme (the LTCS Scheme), whether interim or lifetime, and whether accepted into the LTCS Scheme before or after that date.

The Lifetime Care and Support Commissioner (the LTCS Commissioner) may waive observance of any or parts of this Guideline. Waiving observance of all or part of this Guideline in any particular circumstances is not an indication that the LTCS Commissioner will waive observance of this part or any other parts of the Guidelines in other circumstances.

1 Reasonable and necessary aids and appliances

1.1 The LTCS Commissioner considers aid or appliance (also referred to as equipment or assistive technology) to be reasonable and necessary when:

a) the aid or appliance is required as a result of the motor accident injury or work injury;

b) the aid or appliance will meet the participant's needs and is consistent with their goals;

c) other treatment or care options have been considered and the aid or appliance is determined to be the most appropriate option in the circumstances;

d) the aid or appliance will achieve one or more of the following:

i. increase or maintain independence;

ii. increase or maintain participation;

iii. improve or maintain mobility;

iv. aid communication;

v. relieve pain or discomfort;

vi. maintain health or prevent ill-health;

vii. assist a return or entry to vocational, educational or leisure activities; or

viii. increase or maintain the safety of the participant, their family, carers or attendant care workers.

1.2 The LTCS Commissioner considers the reasonable expenses in relation to the participant's assessed treatment and care needs in relation to aids and appliances will not include expenses for:

a) items that are not the most cost-effective solution to meet the participant's injury-related needs;

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b) repair or replacement due to the participant intentionally neglecting, abusing, losing or misusing an aid or appliance, except where the neglect, abuse or loss has occurred as a result of the participant's injury;
c) continence aids, supplies or other consumables where the participant is an inpatient, or where a hospital bed fee includes the provision of these aids or supplies; or
d) equipment items provided to a participant when an inpatient and the hospital bed fee includes the provision of these items;
e) replacement or repair of items when the repair or replacement is covered under warranty or insurance;
f) an aid or appliance that does not comply with Australian Standards, where applicable, or that is not registered with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, where applicable; and
g) replacement or upgrade of an item when an existing item meets the participant's injury-related needs.

2 Method of assessment and criteria used to determine reasonable and necessary treatment and care needs for or in connection with aids and appliances

2.1 The LTCS Commissioner's assessment of a participant's treatment and care needs for or in connection with aids and appliances must:
a) be made in collaboration with the participant; and
b) take into account the participant's individual needs, social and physical environment.

2.2 The LTCS Commissioner adopts the *Guidelines for Prescribers – Assistive Technology and Guidelines for Prescribers – Exercise and Fitness Equipment* developed by Lifetime Care. These guide best practice in the prescription of aids and appliances by defining the required qualifications and levels of experience that prescribers must possess. These can be accessed on Lifetime Care's website at: www.icare.nsw.gov.au.

2.3 Information required by the LTCS Commissioner to make an assessment includes:
a) clearly stated participant-centred goals addressing the need for the item(s);
b) justification for the item(s), including the relationship to the motor accident injury or work injury and criteria listed in Part 6 of the Guidelines;
c) clinical assessments;
d) evidence that the aid or appliance has been successfully trialled (where possible) and the participant is able to safely use the aid or appliance within the intended environment of use;
e) implementation procedures for the aid or appliance are outlined, including any associated training requirements; and
f) written advice from the participant's education facility if the aid or appliance is to aid a return or entry into an educational activity.

2.4 The following procedures are to be followed in the prescription of an aid or appliance:

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a) the prescription must be conducted by a health professional or team of professionals with recognised qualifications and relevant experience in prescribing that category of equipment;
b) The LTCS Commissioner requires the prescriber to have experience in relation to the complexity of the participant's needs, the equipment, any associated risks, or a combination of these factors;
c) reference to the list of equipment for the corresponding injury level found in the Lifetime Care's *Guidelines for levels of attendant care for people with spinal cord injury* should be made for participants with a spinal cord injury;
d) an Equipment Request Form must be completed except where the LTCS Commissioner has advised that an Equipment Request Form is not required;
e) the prescriber must follow the Lifetime Care's *Guidelines for Prescribers - Assistive Technology* and the *Guidelines for Prescribers - Exercise and Fitness Equipment*;
f) one or more quotes are to be provided if requested by the LTCS Commissioner.
g) The guidance listed above can be accessed on the Lifetime Care's website at www.icare.nsw.gov.au

3 Hire of aids and appliances

3.1 The LTCS Commissioner considers the hire of an aid or appliance to be more appropriate than the purchase of an aid or appliance when:

a) the participant's medical condition, functional status or circumstances are likely to change in the foreseeable future;
b) the prescriber is unsure of the functional benefits of the aid or appliance and needs to confirm its benefits through a longer-term trial of the aid or appliance before purchase;
c) the participant's living arrangements are not known, and it is not possible to confirm that the aid or appliance will be functional in the home environment;
d) the need for the aid or appliance is for the short term only; or
e) the hire of the aid or appliance is more cost effective than its purchase.

4 Maintenance and repair of aids and appliances

4.1 The LTCS Commissioner considers maintenance and repair of an aid or appliance to be reasonable and necessary when:

a) the need for maintenance or repairs results from normal wear and tear;
b) the need for maintenance or repairs is routine as recommended by the manufacturer or to meet industry standards; or
c) an adjustment is needed due to a change in the participant's needs.

4.2 The LTCS Commissioner may fund maintenance and repair of an aid or appliance when:

a) the maintenance or repair is not covered under warranty or covered by insurance; and
b) the LTCS Commissioner's contribution towards the cost of maintenance or repair is

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consistent with the LTCS Commissioner's contribution towards the purchase or modification of the aid or appliance.

5 Replacement of aids and appliances

5.1 The LTCS Commissioner considers replacement of an aid or appliance to be reasonable and necessary when:

a) the item is still required by the participant;

b) the participant's needs have changed and modification to the item is not feasible; or

c) the need to replace the aid or appliance is the result of normal use over a reasonable period of time and repair to the item is not feasible.

6 General household and personal items

6.1 The LTCS Commissioner may fund an equivalent general household and personal item when the item owned by the participant is not able to be modified or adapted and the need for the item is directly related to the motor accident injury or work injury. After the initial purchase, the LTCS Commissioner expects the general household or personal item will be replaced by the participant. *For example, if the participant or their household owns a top-loading washing machine, the LTCS Commissioner may fund the one-time purchase of a front-loading washing machine if this would increase the participant's independence and capacity to participate in household activities. The LTCS Commissioner would not fund any replacement for the washing machine at a later date.*

6.2 The LTCS Commissioner considers general household and personal items may include items such as standard beds and mattresses, household appliances, standard clothing and footwear and mainstream multifunctional devices including laptops, tablets, smartphones, smart watches and associated applications.

6.3 The LTCS Commissioner considers funding of equivalent general household and personal items to be reasonable and necessary when the factors at clause 1.1 of this Part are met.

6.4 The LTCS Commissioner considers the expenses in relation to the participant's assessed treatment and care needs in relation to aids and appliances will not include the replacement of general household or personal items. This includes:

a) when the item would be owned and replaced by the participant or their household; and

b) when the item was initially funded by the LTCS Commissioner as outlined in 6.1 because the need for an equivalent item is directly related to the motor accident injury or work injury.

6.5 The LTCS Commissioner considers mainstream multifunctional devices including laptops, tablets, smartphones, smart watches and associated applications may be reasonable and necessary aids and appliances when the factors listed at clause 1.1 are met and:

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a) the participant requires the device and/or applications as part of a goal-oriented rehabilitation
    i. measurably increase independence; and/or
    ii. measurably improve an injury-related need in communication;
b) the participant can demonstrate the ability to effectively use the device and any relevant application for the reasons it has been recommended;
c) the participant does not own or have reasonable access to the requested device;
d) the participant does not have access to other equipment that meets the identified need; and
e) the participant is not required to provide their own device when attending a school or educational facility when there is a “bring your own device” policy in place.

6.6 The LTCS Commissioner considers the reasonable expenses in relation to the participant’s assessed treatment and care needs in relation to mainstream multifunctional devices and associated applications will not include:
a) an upgrade or replacement of the device that does not meet an injury-related need;
b) applications other than those prescribed to meet an injury-related need;
c) the additional cost of software, hardware or associated items where this is the participant's personal preference and is not required to maximise a participant's independence; or
d) the additional cost of software upgrades where this is the participant's personal preference and is not required to ensure that the participant's device remains serviceable or maximises a participant's independence in use; and
e) internet and data costs that are not in relation to the injury-related need for the device.

7 Aids and appliances for exercise and fitness

7.1 The LTCS Commissioner considers an exercise aid or appliance to be reasonable and necessary when the factors listed at clause 1.1 of this Part are met and:
a) the need for the aid or appliance is related to a participant’s goal documented in their plan; and
b) the participant’s commitment has been demonstrated through regular use of the aid or appliance over a period of time where hire or loan is available.

7.2 The reasonable expenses in relation to the participant’s assessed treatment and care needs in relation to aids and appliances will not include:
a) equipment that is available for use in another setting (such as a gymnasium) that is appropriate for the participant to access;
b) equipment that is used by the participant solely in other environments. For example, a physiotherapist’s treatment rooms; or
c) purchase of an aid or appliance when the LTCS Commissioner considers hire is more appropriate.

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8 Aids and appliances for recreation or leisure purposes

8.1 The LTCS Commissioner considers aids and appliances for leisure or recreation will be considered reasonable and necessary when the factors at clause 1.1 of this Part are met and it will assist a participant to return to or commence a leisure activity at an entry level.

8.2 The LTCS Commissioner considers reasonable expenses in relation to the participant's assessed treatment and care needs in relation to aids and appliances will not include large capital items or recreational vehicles, including equipment for professional and/or elite level competition such as State or National Championships.

9 Agreements with participants for aids and appliances

9.1 The LTCS Commissioner may require the participant to enter into an agreement that includes the conditions of use, maintenance, insurance and ownership of an aid or appliance.

9.2 If a participant requests a specific aid or appliance which is more expensive than a prescribed item that is required to meet the participant's assessed injury-related need, the LTCS Commissioner may pay a reasonable contribution to the cost of that item.

Applicable provisions of the LTCS Act	
Part 13 - LTCS Guidelines	LTCS Act reference
Aids and appliances (equipment)	Sections 9, 23

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