

Specialised Equipment

What is Specialist Equipment?

Specialist Equipment is available on loan from the PSCTas (Specialist Equipment Provider) to eligible child care services (excluding In Home care) to assist the inclusion of a child who has demonstrated ongoing high support needs in a child care environment.

What is available from the Specialist Equipment provider?

Any request for specialist equipment must be based on the recommendation of an appropriate professional who has knowledge of the child's biomechanical functioning and needs, such as an occupational therapist or physiotherapist. The Children's Therapy team and Inclusion Support Agency in your region will have access to the PSCTas Online Specialised Equipment Database to enable the selection of appropriate equipment to assist with the inclusion of children with specific needs.

The specialist equipment includes, but is not limited to:

- portable ramps to create access to the environment
- standing frames and full support swings to allow the child with high physical support needs to participate in the daily child care program and activities
- hoists, slings, harnesses, change tables, commodes, toilet seats or steps, potty chairs, mobile stools and seating or posture aids for care givers to enable them to lift and transfer children safely when carrying out basic care functions, such as changing and going to the toilet
- specialised 'basic furniture' such as chairs, tables, desks and sleeping equipment
- communication cards or charts, Auslan dictionary to enable the child and carers to communicate effectively
- specialised inclusion toys such as switch sensory mats
- individualised equipment such as foam items specific to the needs of a child care environment and a child being included.

PSCTas **does not** provide:

- therapeutic equipment (for example, hearing aids and therapist tables)
- equipment that the service would reasonably be expected to supply
- equipment that the parent or carer would reasonably be expected to supply (for example, wheelchairs, walking frames and body suits)
- equipment for which there are hygiene issues (for example, padded cots).

Providing specialist equipment is contingent on:

- the completion of an Service Support Plan (SSP) in which the child care service demonstrates the need for specialist equipment requested to enable the inclusion of a child within the care environment
- confirmation that the child has a disability
- recommendation by the child's therapist that the equipment will support the child's inclusion in the child care service.

Supply of Equipment

How can a child care service loan specialist equipment?

A Service Support Plan (SSP), to be completed by child care services, may demonstrate the need for specialist equipment to include a child with a disability.

Where the need has been demonstrated, the child care service is required to attach the SSP to a *Specialist Equipment Request Form* and send it directly to PSCTas. The form can be downloaded from the link at the bottom of this outline.

The Specialist Equipment Request Form is to be completed by a qualified professional, such as an occupational therapist or physiotherapist, who is familiar with the biomechanical functioning and needs of the child requiring the specialist equipment for their inclusion in the child care service.

A catalogue of specialist equipment items is available through the PSCTas Website. Child care services and therapists are encouraged to check the catalogue prior to completing the request form. PSCTas can be contacted for advice on the availability of specialist equipment. Where PSCTas already has the specialist equipment as part of the Specialised Equipment Pool, it will be made available to your service on loan free of charge. If PSCTas does not already have the equipment required, PSCTas will assess the request against national eligibility criteria and if approved, the equipment may be purchased (subject to available funding) for the child's use while in care at your service.

PSCTas will assess and commence actions relating to the request within five business days of a request form being received. PSCTas will notify the child care service of any delays or issues in the provision or availability of the equipment. The provider will notify the ISA or IPSU in writing that the specialist equipment has been supplied to the child care service.

The equipment will be loaned for as long as it is required and remains appropriate to the needs of the child. From time to time the ISA or IPSU will monitor the continued appropriateness and good working order of specialist equipment on loan to a child care service.

Fitting Specialist Equipment

Once the equipment is delivered to your service, it must be checked by the therapist and altered by her/him to meet the child's specific needs. The eligible child care service is responsible for ensuring that specialist equipment is prescribed and fitted by an appropriate professional such as an occupational therapist or physiotherapist.

Staff caring for the child must also be instructed by the therapist on its safe and correct use. A Notification of Receipt is issued with the equipment which the Director of the service must sign and return to PSCTas indicating that the appropriate checks and instruction to staff have been carried out.

Faults or Damage

If at any stage during the use of the equipment, your staff detect any damage to or fault with the specialised equipment, you are required to complete a Notification of Faults/Damage form and submit to PSCTas as soon as it is noticed. PSCTas will then arrange for any action required to rectify the fault or damage or replace the equipment if necessary.

Return of Equipment

When the equipment is no longer needed the child care service must immediately notify PSCTas to arrange collection for return to the equipment pool. To do this, you must complete the Specialised Equipment Returns form and attach to the equipment or fax or email it to PSCTas.

Download:

1. [Loan Terms and Conditions](#)
2. [Contract for Loan](#)
3. [Loan Protocol](#)
4. [Notification of Receipt](#)
5. [Notification of Faults/Damage](#)
6. [Specialised Equipment Returns](#)