

Equipment can be funded by different sources. This may depend on:

- the type of equipment
- its cost
- where it is to be used.

Depending on who is to pay, different processes often need to be followed. Therapists can provide guidance through the necessary steps.

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### Department of Families and Communities (DFC)

- Is funded by the State Government.
- Equipment funded by the DFC is ordered and repaired via Domiciliary Equipment Service (DES).
- Pays for a range of equipment for people living in South Australia who have moderate or severe disabilities.
- Is intended to help such people live and remain in their own homes.
- Equipment repairs are covered by DFC.
- The equipment remains the property of DFC to be used by the client until no longer required.
- The therapist completes all the forms and will ask for your signature.
- The forms and the quote are submitted to Equipment Service, along with a completed priority score.
- There may be a waiting time while the orders are on the provision waiting list.
- DFC also funds modifications to existing equipment, following the same processes as for new equipment.

For more information see [Related external links](#) at the end of this page

## Novita's equipment fund

- The fund has been developed by Novita.
- It is usually used to pay for items not covered by DFC and which are unlikely to need costly repairs or changes.
- All repairs or changes to equipment funded this way are paid for by Novita, but there may be a waiting time.
- The therapist completes all the required forms and may ask for your signature if required.
- The forms and the quote are submitted to Equipment Services and are put onto a waiting list according to their priority score.

## Variety Splinting Fund

- The Variety Club of South Australia provide funding for splints and orthoses for children 0-18 years old who are registered with Novita.
- The therapist completes the required forms
- The forms and the quote are submitted to Novitatech's Orthotics department.
- Speak to your therapist about what splints and orthoses are 'eligible' through this fund
- Splints supplied by othotists other than at Novitatech are prioritised with other equipment funded by DFC.

## Australian Lions Children's Mobility Foundation (ALCMF)

- Set up by Lions Service Clubs in South Australia.
- Can be used to fund mobility equipment such as walkers or mobility equipment where the children have their feet on the ground.
- Waiting times may be involved while clubs are approached for support.
- Parents/carers need to sign a form to say that they accept the conditions of the equipment provision, which may include going to an official meeting where the equipment will be presented.
- Parents may also be asked to help in promotions related to fund raising.
- The equipment is recycled through therapists at Novita when no longer needed.
- The Novita therapist assists with applications by:
  - completing the required forms
  - explaining the conditions
  - arranging to get your signature on the application form.
- Your therapist can give you further information about this fund.

## Children's Youth and Women's Health Service (Women's and Children's Hospital)

Orthoses may be made at the Women's and Children's Hospital (see [Related External Links list](#) at the bottom of this page). When orthoses are provided by WCH, a gap contribution is paid by families. Ask a therapist for details.

## Equipment paid for by the client or client's family

- Family payment for the equipment avoids the waiting times that may be involved in using other funds.
- If the equipment is paid for, it is also necessary to pay for any repairs and modifications which might be necessary unless the Independent Living Equipment Program agree to adopt the equipment. If they do:
  - the equipment will then be owned by the program
  - there may be a short waiting time for funding of repairs
  - the equipment will need to go to their store when you no longer need it.
- Once equipment has been bought, the cost cannot be reimbursed by Novita or ILEP.

## Private health insurance funds

- Will sometimes be prepared to pay for orthoses or splints.
- Each fund is different – check with your fund.
- Using private health insurance cover may reduce waiting times for equipment, especially if the gap between the full cost of the equipment and what your health insurer will cover is payed.
- Speak to your Novita therapist to get more details about this method of payment.

## Compensation funds

- Some compensable clients are able to access the cost of equipment via the relevant insurer or their lawyer/solicitor.
- Therapists can assist you to make an application to access these funds - this may involve:
  - writing to your lawyer to ask for access to the funds
  - completing the necessary forms
  - submitting a quotation to the lawyer or fund involved.
- Parents need to clarify insurance and warranty responsibilities when the equipment arrives.

## Special Education Resource Unit (SERU)

- SERU will provide equipment for use at school only.
  - The school will apply to SERU for the equipment.
  - They will often need supportive documentation from your child's therapist(s).
- See [Related external links](#) for more information.

## Non-Novita organisations

- These can include:
  - service clubs - such as Variety Club of South Australia
  - Inclusion SA if the equipment is needed for a childcare centre.
- Parents will need to get clear information about:
  - what is involved to order and purchase
  - who will own the equipment
  - who will pay for any repairs and modifications.

Your therapist can assist you and provide supporting information for the application.

## Related external links

Special Education Resource Unit (<http://web.seru.sa.edu.au/>)

Children's Youth and Women's Health Service (Women's and children's hospital)  
<http://www.wch.sa.gov.au/>)

Independent living equipment program (<http://www.ilc.asn.au/ilep/>)

## Further information on the Novita website

- [Therapy Equipment](#) (Webpage)
- [So you're getting a new piece of equipment – Tips for parents and carers](#) (Factsheet)
- [Equipment Provision Process](#) (Factsheet)

## Glossary

**Orthoses** – another word for splints – special supports for the hand or foot.

**Priority score** – the child's equipment is graded by the therapist using a priority rating scale to work out how urgently the equipment is needed.