

Our position on medical aids and equipment

The Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme must be reformed to deliver aids and equipment in an affordable, equitable and timely manner.

The problem

Queensland's Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme is the worst in the nation. People cannot afford the medical aids and equipment they need, which means that Queenslanders:

1. have less independence (relying more on family and service providers than they would otherwise need to);
2. have longer hospital stays than they need; and
3. can be re-admitted to hospital with complications and infections caused by inappropriate equipment.

The solution

The Disability Alliance believes the solutions to this shortfall simple and affordable. They are:

1. Make medical aids and equipment free of charge;
2. Loosen the restrictions on eligibility;
3. Implement a system for repair and/or replacement; and
4. Begin planning for equipment needs on admission rather than discharge.

The benefits to Queensland

With adequate access to medical aids and equipment available to Queenslanders who need them, Queenslanders with disability will have:

- shorter hospital stays (with fast and efficient discharge system);
- less health complications from poor handling, inappropriate medical aids or no equipment at all;
- a better quality of life;
- improved health;
- less reliance on carers and service providers; and
- greater participation in the workforce (and tax system).

Make a difference this election

Call on your local Member to publicly support reforms to the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme that will deliver aids and equipment in an affordable, equitable and timely manner.