



Rehabilitation Appliances Program

Information for Providers about the Rehabilitation Appliances Program

Overview

This Factsheet describes how the veteran community can access aids and appliances through the Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP), who is eligible, and what aids and appliances are available on the RAP National Schedule of Equipment.

What is the Rehabilitation Appliances Program?

The Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) assists entitled veterans, war widows and widowers and dependants to be as independent and self-reliant as possible in their own home. Appropriate health care assessment and subsequent provision of aids and appliances may minimise the impact of disabilities, enhance quality of life and maximise independence when undertaking daily living activities.

The program provides safe and appropriate equipment:

- according to assessed clinical need;
- in an effective and timely manner; and
- as part of the overall management of an individual's health care.

The equipment should be:

- appropriate for its purpose;
- safe for the entitled person; and
- designed for persons with an illness or disability, and not widely used by persons without an illness or disability.

Which veterans can receive aids and appliances?

Gold Repatriation Health Card for All Conditions are eligible to receive rehabilitation aids and appliances if they have an assessed clinical need and they fulfil the requisite criteria for supply.

White Repatriation Health Card for Specific Conditions are eligible to receive rehabilitation aids and appliances if they have an assessed clinical need for an accepted disability and/or malignant cancer, pulmonary tuberculosis and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) if these conditions are accepted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

Note: As of 1 July 2007, veterans from allied countries are eligible for RAP equipment or home modifications provided by DVA in relation to accepted disabilities.

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How do veterans access this service?

Veterans must be assessed as requiring certain aids or appliances by:

- their doctor or specialist; *or*
- an allied health provider e.g. an occupational therapist. Veterans will need to be referred to an allied health provider by their treating doctor.

Where it is identified that an aid or appliance is clinically necessary the assessor completes a Direct Order Form and sends it to a DVA-contracted supplier.

Note: For aids and appliances not covered by contractual arrangements, requests should be sent to DVA to arrange supply.

How do I know what items are available?

DVA publishes a Schedule of Equipment for the RAP. This schedule lists:

- item number and description;
- whether the prior financial authorisation of DVA is required before an item can be supplied;
- who may prescribe the item;
- who may arrange supply of the item;
- any special conditions attached to the item.

What if the item required by the veteran is not listed on the schedule?

If the item required is not listed you need to contact DVA for prior financial authorisation before prescribing the item.

RAP and Aged Care

Can items be provided to veterans and/or war widows(ers) in Residential Aged Care Facilities?

Approved providers of Australian Government funded aged care services are required to provide care and services as specified under the *Aged Care Act (1997)* and *Quality of Care Principles (1999)*. Schedule 1 of the *Quality of Care Principles (1999)* lists the specified care, services and aids and appliances to be provided for all residents who require them.

Link to *Aged Care Act (1997)* Department of Health and Ageing - Aged Care Act 1997 (<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ageing-legislat-aca1997-acaindex.htm>)

Link to *Quality of Care Principles (1997)* Quality of Care Principles 1997 (<http://frli.law.gov.au/s97.vts?action=View&VdkVgwKey=1998B00264&Collection=FRLI&ViewTemplate=frliview.hts>)

Entitled persons receiving **low or high level care** in an Australian Government funded aged care facility are generally not provided with RAP aids and appliances. However, DVA may

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consider providing them if the requirements of the Treatment Principles, the Schedule and RAP National Guidelines are met **and** the aged care provider is not legally required to supply them.

Entitled persons receiving Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) services or Community Aged Care Packages (CACP) are able to access RAP aids and appliances where the service provider is not legally required to supply them. An entitled person who has been issued RAP aids and appliances prior to entering aged care may take them into an aged care facility subject to the approval of the aged care provider.

DVA will maintain responsibility for the repair, maintenance and, if necessary, replacement of RAP items where the item(s) were supplied to an entitled person before they entered aged care.

If further information is required concerning the provision of services and care for DVA entitled persons receiving Australian Government funded aged care services contact the Department of Health and Ageing through the **Aged Care Hotline on 1800 500 853**.

Does DVA cover the cost of repairs and replacements?

DVA will cover the cost of repairs and replacements of an aid or appliance if: the appliance was damaged by normal wear and tear;

- the appliance inadvertently was damaged or lost; *or*
- the health provider treating the entitled person considers that a replacement is required because the person's condition has changed.

Are there any guidelines for the supply of appliances?

Guidelines for the supply of appliances include:

- appliances must be provided *only on the basis of assessed clinical need*;
- the simplest, most effective and least costly equipment that will suffice should be recommended;
- certain appliances require prior financial authorisation from DVA;
- as indicated on the schedule, assessments are to be carried out by the health professional (accessing Health Provider) who will also be responsible for instructing the veteran on the use of the equipment;
- DVA does not provide items that are considered standard household equipment nor items that may be considered a part of normal apparel, domestic requirements or recreational requirements; *and*
- a referral is to be sent to the Director, RAP and HomeFront, Community Health, to request items not listed on the schedule.

For further guidance refer to the RAP Schedule of Equipment and RAP National Guidelines (<http://www.dva.gov.au/health/rap/rap.htm>).

Other Factsheets

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Other Factsheets related to this topic include:

Information for Providers about Home Modification: HSV 70

Veterans' Home Maintenance Helpline: HAC 03

Repatriation Health Card - For All Conditions (Gold): HSV 60

Repatriation Health Card - For Specific Conditions (White): HSV 61

More information

All DVA fact sheets are available on request from any DVA office or on the DVA web site at www.dva.gov.au/factsheets/default.htm.

If you need more information about this topic, contact DVA, or visit our web site at www.dva.gov.au.

You can telephone DVA for the cost of a local call* on the numbers listed below:

Health Providers

- **Metro** 1300 550 457
- **Non-metro** 1800 550 457

Note: * If you use a mobile phone, calls may be more costly. You are advised to use a normal phone (i.e. a landline phone) when ringing these numbers.