

Assistive Technology and Home Modifications (AT HM) scheme

Support at Home Program

Assistive technology and home modifications are products, equipment, and changes to your house that help you to live at home or within your community.

Depending on your needs, you may access equipment to help you get around (such as a wheelchair or walking frame) and live safely at home (such as adding handrails to your bath or shower). It helps you to do the things you enjoy for longer with greater accessibility, independence and safety. Give Feedback This support is available through the Assistive Technology and Home Modifications (AT-HM) scheme, which is part of the Support at Home program.

What help is available?

The AT-HM scheme enables you to access:

1. Assistive technology — products and equipment that help make tasks easier and safer. It can also help you keep doing activities independently.

Assistive technology includes:

- equipment to help you move around such as wheelchairs, walking frames, or walking sticks
- toileting supports such as bedpans and commodes
- bathing devices, including shower chairs and bath boards
- alternative and augmentative communication products

- products used for preparing and eating food, such as adaptive cutting boards, or modified cutlery.
2. Home modifications — changes to your home to make it safer and more accessible, so you can live safely at home for longer.

Home modifications include:

- lever tap sets or lever door handles
- grab rails in your shower or bathroom
- internal and external handrails
- ramps and stair lifts
- non-slip materials and mats for floors and stairs.

The AT-HM List contains the products, equipment and home modifications you can access.

Funding information

The table below outlines funding tiers, amounts and access periods for assistive technology and home modifications.

Funding Tier	Funding amount	Access Period
Low	Up to \$500	12 months
Medium	Up to \$2,000	12 months
High	Up to \$15,000	12 months

* Higher amounts for assistive technology can be approved with evidence.

Sometimes, complex home modifications may take longer than 12 months. The funding period can be extended for an additional 12 months (24 months in total), if you and your provider can prove the process has started.

Older people with specific progressive conditions may be able to access assistive technology funding over 24 months. Funding may be extended to a total of 48 months if needed.

If you have specific needs, such as an assistance dog, you may be eligible for more funding over a longer time.

How do I get funding for assistive technology and home modifications?

To get funding, you will need to have an aged care assessment. If the assessor approves you for the AT-HM scheme, they will record this in your Notice of Decision letter and support plan.

You may be funded for assistive technology or home modifications, or both. This funding is upfront and separate from your other Support at Home services. This means you can start accessing AT-HM services as soon as funding is available. You don't need to wait for funding to come through for other services you've been assessed for.

You will need to go through applying for aged care assessment and refer to funding wait times and starting services.

How do I know which assistive technology and home modifications I need?

If you are approved for the AT-HM scheme, your aged care assessment will identify whether you need assistive technology, home modifications, or both, based on your individual needs.

Your Support at Home provider will discuss which equipment, products and home modifications you might need. Based on your needs, they can also organise an assessment with a health professional to prescribe more complex equipment or any home modifications.

Assistive technology

Your provider:

- sources and supplies any products and equipment that don't require a prescription
- arranges an assessment from a suitably qualified health professional such as an occupational therapist, if the product or equipment you need requires a prescription

- works with the health professional to source and supply any prescribed products and equipment.

Home modifications

Your provider:

- arranges an assessment from an occupational therapist to determine what you need
- gets your agreement to proceed with the home modifications
- coordinates installation of modifications with a qualified person.

Do I have to buy assistive technology, or can I rent or loan it?

You can buy, rent or loan the assistive technology that you need. You may be able to loan equipment through programs such as Motor Neurone Disease Australia. You can also rent assistive technology from a supplier if you only need the equipment for a short time. Your provider can make this arrangement.