

Information sheet No.2

Rehabilitation Technology Unit RPH Shenton Park Campus



Rehabilitation Technology Services and the CAEP Scheme

The Community Aids and Equipment Programme (CAEP) is a scheme, administered and managed by the Disability Services Commission (DSC) in Western Australia, to provide disability equipment to persons with a long term disability who live in the community.

The type of equipment which can be supplied and the criteria which determine those persons who are eligible for assistance under the scheme, are laid out in the CAEP Imprest List and Guidelines document administered by the DSC.

CAEP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible to access the CAEP Scheme, the person with the disability must satisfy all of the following criteria. The person must;

- ◆ *have a disability which is of a permanent or indefinite nature*
- ◆ *not be a current inpatient or outpatient of a hospital*
- ◆ *reside in the community for the majority of the time in a situation which is structured to encourage independent living*
- ◆ *not be a recipient of a compensation settlement*
- ◆ *be the holder of a Pensioner Concession Card or a Health Care Card or a Commonwealth Seniors Card*

Persons living in Government or Non-Government hostels, group homes or Homeswest accommodation are eligible for only those items personalised for their own use.

Persons must be resident in a private home (owned, mortgaged or rented) to be eligible for home modifications.

CAN THE RTU SUPPLY EQUIPMENT SERVICES UNDER THE CAEP SCHEME ?

The prime responsibility of the Rehabilitation Technology Unit (RTU) at Shenton Park is to provide a technology service to assist in the rehabilitation of the patient and to provide the equipment necessary to ensure his or her safe and effective discharge into the community.

CAEP services, for eligible clients living in the community, are funded by their Provider Hospital or Institution according to the postcode of the client's domicile address. The RTU is funded by DSC, through RPH, to provide services:

- ◆ *in accord with the CAEP guidelines, to all eligible clients domicile in the catchment area allocated to RPH and the Inner City Health Service according to postcode.*
- ◆ *to eligible clients from across the State, who require specialised RTU services and who can be referred to the RTU by their Provider Institution*

The intent of the State Service arrangement is to;

- ◆ *ensure that prospective clients approach their local Provider for equipment services in the first instance*
- ◆ *ensure that all client's have equity of access to the specialised expertise and the services supplied by the RTU, according to need and where the necessary resources may not be currently available at the local level.*

Access to State Service funding is detailed under the CAEP Schedule 'J' and is broadly defined for Providers according to the level of their funding agreement or contract with CAEP

HOW DOES SCHEDULE 'J' WORK ?

Schedule 'J' defines CAEP access to Specialist Statewide Equipment (SSE) Services provided through RPH, including the Rehabilitation Technology Unit (RTU). The key principles that underpin the CAEP / RPH Statewide Service Agreement are to;

- ◆ *provide effective prescription and supply of complex equipment for complex problems*
- ◆ *provide access to specialised services that may not be available at the local level, thus ensuring equity of service provision for all clients across the State.*
- ◆ *ensure the right of the consumer to choose their services provider*
- ◆ *encourage local CAEP service provision where possible and to improve the standard of such provision by fostering effective working relationships between the RTU and other CAEP service providers*

Equipment that can be provided by the RTU under the Statewide Service Agreement includes;

- ◆ *augmentative communication systems*
- ◆ *wheelchairs: electric and specialised or customised manual wheelchairs*
- ◆ *specialised postural support seating, positioning equipment and protective helmets*
- ◆ *orthotic appliances and specialised footwear*
- ◆ *one-off ADL equipment requiring individual design and manufacture*

ACCESS TO FUNDING UNDER THE SSE SERVICE ARRANGEMENT

Provider Institutions have access to the State funds administered by RPH according to their individual contracts with CAEP. Two levels of access are defined by the Part 1 and the Part 2 (Continuity of Service) arrangement applying to Providers with less than \$80k and greater than \$80k CAEP funds for 1999/00, respectively. Some special conditions apply to individual Providers and these are defined in the CAEP purchasing agreements applying to individual Provider Institutions.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICE (ALL PROVIDERS)

All Providers (Part 1 and Part 2) can refer CAEP clients to the RTU for equipment services under the State funding arrangement, but only where the client has previously received such services through the RTU and where they wish to continue to do so.

If a client has received a suitable and satisfactory equipment service at the local level, subsequent to having been seen by the RTU then the client should continue to be serviced by their local Provider.

The exceptions to this general rule are where;

- ◆ *the expertise is no longer available at the local level*
- ◆ *where the client's medical condition and/or functional status has significantly changed or where*
- ◆ *the clinician responsible for the client's medical care, in agreement with the client, requests referral to the RTU*

PART 1 PROVIDERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO REFER CLIENTS FOR CAEP/RPH STATE FUNDED SERVICES THROUGH THE RTU

where the client has a complex clinical problem such as tetraplegia, ABI or a neurological disease such as MS, MND etc. and where the equipment service is likely to require specialist expertise, custom design and complex technology assistance requiring ongoing monitoring, adjustment and maintenance.

PART 2 PROVIDERS, WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CAEP/RPH STATE FUNDED SERVICES

other than by the continuity of service arrangement, can access the services provided by the RTU by placing a purchase order on the RTU, based on an estimate/quotation for the services requested.

INFORMATION:

The RTU is pleased to assist you with regard to its work under the CAEP scheme or other services.

For further information on the operation of the CAEP Scheme (ie. eligibility criteria, relevant provider, equipment provided, cost ceilings etc..) the reader is referred to the CAEP Guidelines available from [**CAEP Manager, DSC \(08 94269307\)**](mailto:CAEP Manager, DSC (08 94269307))