

# Information for Consumers: Vehicle Modification Subsidy Scheme (VMSS) Frequently Asked Questions



[To use an interpreter over the telephone - Phone 131 450](#)

## State-wide Equipment Program

### What is the SWEP Vehicle Modification Subsidy Scheme (VMSS)?

VMSS provides eligible Victorians with subsidy funding towards the cost of vehicle modifications.

### Am I eligible for funding?

You may be eligible for funding if you are a permanent resident of Victoria and have a permanent or long-term disability/condition or are frail aged; are not eligible for any other funding options; and are living independently in the community.

A SWEP application and eligibility form allows us to determine your eligibility.

### How do I apply for funding?

You must be assessed by a SWEP registered Assistive Technology (AT) Practitioner (i.e. Occupational Therapist with post-graduate training in driver assessment and rehabilitation) to determine the most appropriate and safe modification. Your AT Practitioner will complete an online application form based on your needs and submit it on your behalf.

### How do I find an Occupational Therapist?

Please talk to your local health care professional (G.P.) about finding a SWEP registered AT Practitioner near you. Further information can be found on the Transport Victoria Website:

[Vehicle modifications for drivers with a disability - Transport Victoria](#)

### What is the subsidy level?

The maximum subsidy available is \$10,000 over a seven year period. Vehicles must be less than 10 years old, and have less than 160,000 kilometres on the odometer.

### What type of modifications can VMSS subsidise?

- Air conditioning for people with thermo-regulatory conditions
- Conversions of vehicles for wheelchair access
- Modified driving controls
- Oxygen cylinder and wheelchair restraint systems (please refer to <https://swep.bhs.org.au/frequently-asked-questions-dop.php> for information on safety considerations when transporting oxygen cylinders)
- Ramps permanently secured to vehicles
- Specialised lifters, carriers and trailers for wheelchairs (but not modifications to trailers)
- Specialised seating
- modification component of an already modified second hand vehicle in some circumstances.

### Does VMSS fund second-hand already modified vehicles?

Yes VMSS can assist with funding towards the modification component of an already modified second-hand vehicle providing:

- ✓ the seller is a licensed motor car trader (LMCT)
- ✓ a current certificate of roadworthiness is provided
- ✓ warranty for the modified component is incorporated

Further information about this can be obtained from the VMSS guidelines.

### Can I buy a vehicle which will require modification prior to my application being approved?

You can buy a non-modified vehicle prior to VMSS funding approval if the vehicle modifier has confirmed that this vehicle is suitable for modification and meets the criteria for age and km's for permanent modifications as well as meeting the Victorian registration requirements.

### What is the process once my assessment has been completed?

1. If you are not known to SWEP you will be required to complete an eligibility form, which your doctor will need to sign.
2. The Occupational Therapist will complete the online application form for you and submit it on your behalf.
3. The vehicle modifier will be required to complete a quote.
4. You and the vehicle modifier will be required to complete legal forms.
5. You may need to complete a gap funding form if the cost of the modification exceeds the subsidy limit.
6. All documentation is submitted to SWEP at which time you will receive a letter to inform you of the status of your application.

Please note an application must be approved and purchase order raised to the vehicle modifier before work commences.

### What are my responsibilities towards the modification?

By accepting funding towards the vehicle modification from SWEP, the vehicle owner assumes ownership and is responsible for ongoing repairs, maintenance, and insurance.

### How can I provide feedback?

If you wish to provide feedback about any aspect of SWEP services, you should visit the 'providing feedback' section of our website - <https://swep.bhs.org.au/providing-feedback.php>