

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



[To use an interpreter over the telephone - Phone 131 450](tel:131450)

State-wide Equipment Program

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

VMSS provides eligible Victorians with subsidy funding for prescribed 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, or are frail aged, and are not eligible for any other funding options and are living independently in the community.

A SWEP application form allows SWEP to determine your eligibility.

How do I apply for funding?

You will need to have an assessment by a SWEP registered Occupational Therapist who will be able to complete a prescription form on your behalf. Your doctor will need to certify that your disability is Permanent, or long term, or that you are Frail Aged.

How do I find an Occupational Therapist?

To find an Occupational Therapist (OT) you can contact your local hospital or council, community health centre or speak to your medical practitioner. You may like to check the OT Australia Find an OT page.

If you require an assessment for a Driver related modification your assessment must be undertaken by a Vic Roads Accredited Driving Assessor.

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?

- ✓ Conversions of vehicles for wheelchair access
- ✓ minor modifications to wheelchairs that are essential for safe travel
- ✓ ramps permanently secured to vehicles
- ✓ specialised lifters, carriers and trailers for wheelchairs
- ✓ modified driving controls
- ✓ specialised seats
- ✓ air conditioning for people with thermo-regulatory conditions
- ✓ oxygen cylinder restraint systems.

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 as long as 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 application form, which your doctor will need to sign.
2. The Occupational Therapist will complete the application form with you.
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 the VMSS Gap Funding Form
6. All documentation is submitted to SWEP at which time you receive a letter to inform you of the status of your application.

Please note an Application must be approved before work commences.

How can I provide feedback?

If you wish to provide feedback about any aspect of SWEP, you should contact SWEP and speak to the relevant Program Manager.

If the matter cannot be resolved you may wish to pursue the issue by following the SWEP grievance and complaint procedure on our website.