

# Paralympics Australia

## Para-sport Equipment Fund Guidelines



The Para-sport Equipment Fund (the Fund) is a joint initiative of Paralympics Australia and Sport Australia.

The purpose of the Fund is to assist in addressing the additional costs associated with **sport participation** in Para-sport pathways for Para-athletes. Specifically, the Fund will address the cost of Para-sport specific equipment, which often has to be customised and has been identified as a significant barrier within the Para-sport pathway, particularly at entry level.

The Fund will be administered by Paralympics Australia and promoted to all people with an impairment who are interested in participating in a Para-sport and likely to be eligible for Paralympic sport.

Applicants will be required to address pre-determined selection criteria within their application.

### Individual Applicants

#### Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for the **Individual** funding, athletes must:

- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident living in Australia
- Have an eligible impairment according to the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) Standard of Eligible Impairments. These are:
  - Ataxia
  - Athetosis
  - Hypertonia
  - Impaired muscle power
  - Impaired passive range of movement
  - Intellectual impairment
  - Leg length difference
  - Limb deficiency
  - Short stature
  - Vision impairment
- Use the equipment for sport/s currently contested on the Paralympic Games Program. For more information click [here](#).
- Be able to provide storage and maintenance for the equipment.
- Provide the contact details of a referee from a club, state or national sporting organisation, coach or school leader to verify the health condition and equipment need.
- Provide a quote from a registered business for the requested equipment, for items including but not limited to; Sports Wheelchairs, Throwing Frames, Handcycles, Prosthetics etc

- Agree to be contacted by Paralympics Australia's and or/other Para-sport Equipment Fund funding partners communications divisions for the purpose of developing media content to promote the Fund.
- Submit a report to Paralympics Australia 12 months following receiving the equipment.

### **Selection Criteria**

Eligible applications will be assessed against a range of criteria including but not limited to;

- Age of applicant with consideration to the length of time they have had their impairment.
- Barrier to participation in the sport without access to equipment requested
- Prior engagement with the Para-sport/s which the equipment is requested
- Equipment need to participate and perceived benefit against cost of investment
- Barrier to participation without access to equipment
- Options to source equipment via alternative means
- Level of equipment required to participate within Para-sport/s
- Impact of equipment within community (social outcomes)

**The primary purpose of the fund is not to provide High Performance athletes with access to the latest equipment, but to support specific needs of individuals to access Para-specific equipment to participate in sport. Some requests from High Performance athletes may be considered, however will not be prioritised.**

Paralympics Australia will work in collaboration with directly with the applicant or directly with businesses to purchase and supply approved equipment to the applicant.

In some cases, equipment may be made available on a loan basis for the duration of its reasonable working life (determined by Paralympics Australia) or until such time as it is not in regular use for the purpose for which it was loaned, at which time it will made available to other sport programs or returned to Paralympics Australia for redistribution.

### **Program Applicants**

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be considered for the **Program** funding, organisations must:

- Provide the equipment to programs consisting of Australian citizens or permanent residents living in Australia.
- Provide the equipment for programs consisting of participants with an eligible impairment according to the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) Standard of Eligible Impairments . These are:
  - Ataxia
  - Athetosis
  - Hypertonia
  - Impaired muscle power
  - Impaired passive range of movement
  - Intellectual impairment

- Leg length difference
- Limb deficiency
- Short stature
- Vision impairment
- Use the equipment for sport/s currently contested on the Paralympic Games Program. For more information click [here](#).
- Be able to provide storage and maintenance for the equipment.
- Provide the contact details of a referee from a state or national sporting organisation, club coach or school leader to verify the health condition/s and equipment need.
- Provide a quote from a registered business for the requested equipment, for items including but not limited to; Sports Wheelchairs, Throwing Frames, Handcycles, Prosthetics etc
- Agree to be contacted by Paralympics Australia's and or/other Para-sport Equipment Fund funding partners communications divisions for the purpose of developing media content to promote the Fund.
- Submit a report to Paralympics Australia 12 months following receiving the equipment.

### **Selection Criteria**

Eligible applications will be assessed against the range of criteria including but not limited to;

- Age of participants intended to use the equipment
- Equipment need and perceived benefit against cost of investment
- Barrier to participation in the sport without access to equipment requested
- Options to source equipment via alternative means
- Level of equipment required to participate within Para-sport/s
- Impact of equipment within community (social outcomes)

Paralympics Australia will work directly with businesses to purchase and supply the equipment to the applicant. In some cases, equipment will be made available on a loan basis for the duration of its reasonable working life or until such time as it is not in regular use for the purpose for which it was loaned, at which time it will made available to other sport programs by Paralympics Australia.

### **Examples of Equipment Items**

- Boccia – adapted wheelchair, adapted and/or modified seating, balls, ramps
- Football 5-a-side – sport-specific equipment
- Goalball – balls, goals
- Para-alpine skiing – adapted and/or modified seating, adapted and/or modified skis, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted sit ski
- Para-archery – adapted and/or modified seating, performance aids, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Para-athletics – adapted and/or modified seating, performance aids, prosthetics, secured frame, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Para-badminton – adapted and/or modified seating, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair

- Para-biathlon – adapted and/or modified seating, adapted and/or modified skis, prosthetics, sport-specific equipment, sport-specific or adapted sit ski
- Para-canoe – adapted and/or modified seating and attachment, prosthetics
- Para-cross country skiing – adapted and/or modified seating, adapted and/or modified skis, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted sit ski
- Para-cycling – adapted and/or modified bicycles, handcycle, prosthetics, tandem cycle, tricycle.
- Para-equestrian – compensating aids, prosthetics
- Para-ice hockey – sport-specific equipment
- Para-judo – sport-specific equipment
- Para-powerlifting – specialised bench
- Para-rowing – adapted and/or modified seating and attachments to boats, prosthetics
- Para-shooting – adapted and/or modified seating, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Para-snowboard – adapted and/or modified equipment, prosthetics
- Para-swimming – blackened goggles for vision impaired swimmers, tapping sticks, modifications to support start from blocks for low class swimmers
- Para-table tennis – adapted and/or modified seating, performance aids, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Para-taekwondo – sport-specific equipment
- Para-triathlon – adapted and/or modified seating, handcycle, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair, tandem cycle
- Sitting volleyball – balls, net
- Wheelchair basketball – adapted and/or modified seating, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Wheelchair curling – modified seating, pole, sport-specific equipment, stones
- Wheelchair fencing – adapted and/or modified seating, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Wheelchair rugby – adapted and/or modified seating, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair
- Wheelchair tennis – adapted and/or modified seating, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair

If you have any questions on your eligibility, please email Paralympics Australia at [equipment@paralympic.org.au](mailto:equipment@paralympic.org.au)

Whilst the program will not exclusively prioritise Participation level Athletes and Programs over that of Performance Level Athletes & Programs, the purpose of the program is, primarily, to provide access to participation in Para-sport and not necessarily to provide Performance level athletes and Programs with access to Performance related equipment. Each application will be viewed independently and Paralympics Australia reserves the right to support any application at their discretion.

Equipment or items ordinarily required to participate in sport for all athletes (such as running shoes, uniform, tennis rackets) will not be prioritised as part of this program.

## How to Apply

1. Carefully read the funding program guidelines to determine whether you meet the eligibility criteria.
2. Complete the application on the Paralympics Australia website in full and submit prior to the closing date of the respective funding round.

## The Selection Process

### Step 1:

Paralympics Australia's will conduct a preliminary assessment of applications received to check that the applicant is eligible to apply, and the application has been completed in full and all information has been provided. Incomplete applications may be deemed ineligible. Nominated referees may also be contacted at this time.

### Step 2:

Each application will be viewed by a moderating panel appointed by Paralympics Australia. All eligible applications will be considered using the following principles to prioritise applications, in addition to the criteria noted above:

- participation level athletes and programs will, generally speaking, be prioritised over performance related requests by athletes and/or programs.
- additional items or upgrading of items for performance purposes may be approved (ie carbon wheels), however will likely be at the cost of the applicant.
- whether the applicant has applied for or received any funding or sponsorship for similar item/s in the past three years, including through the NDIS.
- whether the Fund is the only solution for equipment provision
- whether the applicant has an identified Para-sport pathway through involvement with a club, coach, school or other program
- the age of the applicant/program and where they sit in the Para-sport pathway
- whether the applicant capability to store and maintain the equipment

The equipment requested will be closely scrutinized by the moderating panel to ensure it is appropriate to the age and performance level of the participants.

Paralympics Australia reserves the right to offer equipment solutions that differ from the requested item/s at the full discretion of Paralympics Australia.

### Step 3:

All applications (including unsuccessful applications) will be notified via e-mail as to the outcome of the application.

All application approvals are at the absolute discretion of Paralympics Australia and there is no appeal process for unsuccessful applicants. However, unsuccessful applicants may have their application carried forward (if eligible) or apply in future funding rounds.

Paralympics Australia's will follow up with successful applicants to advise of the process to acquire approved equipment.