

ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

It has come to our attention at Minimbah that at least some parents and carers are unaware of the range of assistance schemes that may be available to them. The following information sheet has been compiled to point you toward further information on the main schemes of which we are aware. Each scheme has its own eligibility criteria, so you will need to contact the relevant authority about your specific circumstances.

Assistance Schemes Potentially Available to Minimbah Clients

compiled May 2011

Disability support pension

Centrelink income support paid to people whose physical or intellectual or psychiatric impairment prevents them from working.

http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/disability_support.htm

Carer payment (caring for a person 16 years or over)

Carer Payment (caring for a person 16 years or over) can provide you with income support if you are unable to support yourself through substantial paid employment because you are caring for someone aged 16 years or over on a daily basis who has a severe disability, medical condition or who is frail aged.

<http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/carers>

Mobility allowance

Centrelink allowance paid to those who are working or undertaking training and who are unable to use public transport without substantial assistance.

<http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/mobility.htm>

Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme (TTSS)

Transport NSW administers the Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme (TTSS). The TTSS scheme was introduced in 1981 to assist residents of NSW who are unable to use public transport because of a qualifying severe and permanent disability. TTSS provides subsidised travel for approved TTSS participants, effectively allowing them to travel by taxi at half fare, up to a maximum subsidy of \$30.00 per trip.

<http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/ttss/ttss-eligibility.html>

Companion Card

The Companion Card is available to people with a significant and permanent disability, who require attendant care for the rest of their lives. The card can be presented when booking or purchasing a ticket at events and venues, provided the cardholder requires attendant care support in order to participate at that particular activity. The participating venue or service will issue the cardholder with a second ticket for their companion at no charge.

<http://www.nswcompanioncard.org.au/>

Health Check – Medicare Items for People with an Intellectual Disability (MBS Items 718 and 719)

This annual health check item was introduced to identify and address the specific clinical needs of patients who have an intellectual disability. Evidence indicates that around 40% of medical conditions remain undiagnosed in people with an intellectual disability and that only half of the diagnosed conditions are appropriately treated. A health assessment should be undertaken by the general practitioner who has provided the majority of services to the patient over the previous 12 months and/or will provide the majority of services to the patient in the coming 12 months.

<http://www.nswcid.org.au/health/se-health-pages/annual-health-assessments.html>

Dental Care- Medicare Items Relevant to People with an Intellectual Disability (Items 85011-87777)

Medicare dental items (Medicare items 85011-87777) are available for people with chronic conditions and complex care needs, on referral from a GP. Eligible patients can access up to \$4,250 in Medicare benefits for dental services over two consecutive calendar years.

www.health.gov.au/dental

Continence Aids Payment Scheme (CAPS)

The CAPS is an Australian Government Scheme that provides a payment to assist eligible people who have permanent and severe incontinence to meet some of the costs of their incontinence products. The payment is made by Medicare Australia directly into a client's nominated bank account.

<http://www.bladderbowel.gov.au/furtherinfo/caps/default.htm>

Continence Assistance- Enable NSW

EnableNSW provides assistance for consumers requiring aids for continence problems. EnableNSW policy requires eligible consumers to use CAPS assistance each year before accessing assistance through EnableNSW.

http://www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/services/continence_assistance

Aids and Equipment Program (also known as PADP)

The Aids and Equipment Program is a NSW Government initiative to assist eligible residents of NSW, who have a life-long or long-term disability, to live and participate within their community by providing appropriate equipment, aids and appliances.

<http://www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/services/padp>