

Paralympics Australia Para sport Equipment Enhancement Program Guidelines & Application

The Para sport Equipment Enhancement Program provides targeted support to address the specific gap of equipment within the Para sport pathway, enabling more athletes to enter and progress in Para sport, including those competing within high-performance.

The Para sport Equipment Enhancement Program (PEEP) addresses the findings of the report into “*Understanding Barriers to Entry and Progression in the High-Performance Pathways for Para Athletes*”, specifically related to Para sport equipment. The PEEP will also adopt a system-wide approach to maximise economies of scale, enabling better access to Para sport equipment.

The systemic barriers associated with additional costs for sport participation in Para sport pathways for Para athletes are well known and understood by athletes, families, sports and other stakeholders within the Para sport sector.

The PEEP, supported by substantial investment from the [Australian Sports Commission’s Para uplift](#), Paralympics Australia partners including [Toyota Community Foundation](#) and other philanthropic donations, will address equipment gaps across the breadth of the pathway, from participation to high-performance via dedicated funding streams.

The PEEP will also support customisation needs for Para equipment which contribute to performance gains and outcomes for Para athletes and programs at benchmark and pinnacle events including World Championships, Commonwealth Games and Paralympic Games.

1. Application Streams

Multiple streams of the PEEP are aimed to address specific needs within various Para sport pathway communities, including:

- a. people with an impairment who are eligible or likely to be eligible for Paralympic sport, who are currently competing or interested in competing in Para sport.
- b. clubs or organisations delivering or interested in delivering sport for people with an impairment who are eligible or likely to be eligible for Paralympic sport.

Each stream of the PEEP will be required to address the specific need or gap as part of the application process. All applications will be assessed by a Paralympics Australia convened moderating panel, to ensure the PEEP achieves the intention & desired outcomes.

The PEEP is open only for sports which are currently contested at the Paralympic

Games.

Stream 1: Athlete Participation Stream

- For individual athletes who participate or want to compete in Para sport, requiring Para specific or customised equipment to do so. These athletes are not Categorised by their respective National Sport Organisation (NSO) or National Sport Organisation for people with a Disability (NSOD).
- This stream will primarily be supported by Australian Sports Commission's [Para uplift](#) funding grant, in addition to other sources of funding and philanthropic donations to Paralympics Australia.
- Whilst performance potential may be considered as part of the assessment process, this is not the primary consideration for this stream.

Stream 2: Athlete Performance Pathway Stream

- For individual NSO/NSOD Categorised athletes within the performance pathway requiring Para specific or customised equipment to compete within the high-performance pathway.
- This stream will primarily be supported by Australian Sports Commission's [Para uplift](#) funding grant, in addition to other sources of funding and philanthropic donations to Paralympics Australia.
- Performance potential may be considered, and engagement with the respective NSO/NSOD with the assessment panel may be part of the assessment process.
- This stream may also consider NSO/NSOD co-contribution models or proposals to achieve optimal outcomes and efficiencies within the high-performance system.
- Whilst all applications will be considered, it is expected that the recent uplift in direct AIS investment into NSO/NSOD Para high performance programs will support Podium and Podium ready Categorised athlete equipment needs. This stream of the program will principally support pre-emerging, emerging, developing and podium potential Categorised athletes.

Stream 3: Program Participation Stream

- For Community programs, Sporting Clubs or State Sporting Organisations (SSO's) requiring Para specific or customised sport equipment to deliver participation programs for groups of Para athletes.
- This stream will primarily be supported by Australian Sports Commission's [Para uplift](#) funding grant, in addition to other sources of funding and philanthropic donations to Paralympics Australia.
- Whilst performance potential may be considered as part of the assessment process, this is not the primary consideration for this stream.

Stream 4: NSO, NSOD & SIS/SAS Para-sport units & RAS Stream

- For NSO/NSOD & State Institutes & State Academies of Sport (SIS/SAS) Para sport unit & Regional Academies of Sport (RAS)
- To address immediate equipment gaps and needs to enable a rapid upscale of Para athlete engagement to support the ambition of significantly increasing the number of Categorised athletes and Para athletes competing within the Para performance pathway.
- This stream will primarily be supported by Australian Sports Commission's [Para uplift](#) funding grant, in addition to other sources of funding and philanthropic donations to Paralympics Australia.
- Paralympics Australia may directly engage with NSO's, NSOD's and SIS/SAS Para sport units and RAS to identify and address gaps and needs within sports and organisations.
- Applications primarily from the recognised organisations noted above are welcomed within this stream.
- It should be noted, Paralympics Australia are working directly with potential Para specific equipment suppliers to address some immediate known needs within targeted sports and programs.
- Whilst all applications will be considered, it is expected that the recent uplift in direct AIS investment into NSO/NSOD Para high performance programs will support Podium and Podium ready Categorised athlete equipment needs. This stream of the program will principally support pre-emerging, emerging, developing and podium potential Categorised athletes and programs.

2. Additional Para investment into Equipment and customised solutions

Independent of this grant program, new investment has been made by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) into their Engineering department, which will increase their capacity and capability to address the equipment customisation needs of Para athletes within high-performance programs. NSO's & NSOD's are encouraged to engage directly with the AIS Engineering Team within AIS Performance, to explore the types of support which may be available and required.

3. Eligibility Criteria for each of the four streams of funding:

To be considered for all Athlete or Program streams of the PEEP, athletes or programs benefiting 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 or deliver programs for athletes with these impairments, including:
 - Muscle weakness/Impaired Muscle Power
 - Restricted joint movement/Impaired Passive Range of Movement
 - Limb loss or deficiency
 - Leg Length Difference
 - Short Stature
 - Coordination Impairments:
 - Hypertonia/Spasticity
 - Motor Ataxia
 - Dyskinesia (athetosis, dystonia, chorea)
 - Vision Impairment
 - Intellectual 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.
- Understand the equipment item will be numbered and registered with Paralympics Australia, allowing for the system to track its investment, location & ensure optimal use.
- Provide the contact details of a referee from a Sporting Club, NSO, SSO, coach or school leader to verify the Eligible Impairment and the equipment need.

- Provide a quote and/or costings from a registered business for the requested equipment. You may engage directly with Paralympics Australia for support with this process if you require assistance or advice.
- Explored funding eligibility through alternative funding sources (e.g. NDIS, TAC, Work Cover, etc.)

4. Selection Criteria

All eligible applications will be assessed against a range of criteria for each Stream of the PEEP, including but not limited to:

- The barrier to participation/performance outcome without access to the equipment requested.
- The age of the applicant, with consideration to how long the participant has had an impairment.
- Demonstrated prior engagement with Para sport which the equipment is requested.
- The equipment need and perceived benefit against the cost of request.
- Options and opportunities to source equipment via alternative means.
- Impact of access to equipment for the individual (wellbeing outcomes) or within community (social outcomes) or future Paralympic performance (performance outcomes).
- Some items requested, or upgrading of items for performance purposes may be approved (i.e. carbon wheels), however may be considered on a case-by-case basis commensurate with the performance level of the athlete or program and/or co-contribution from other funding sources.
- Consideration may be given as to whether the applicant has applied for or received any funding or sponsorship for similar items, including through the NDIS.
- Whether the applicant has capability to store and maintain the equipment.
- The need of the equipment requested will be closely scrutinised by the assessment panel, to ensure it is appropriate to the age and performance level of the participants outlined within the application.
- Providing false or misleading information may deem applications ineligible.

5. Assessment panel

- The assessment panel will contain representatives from Paralympics Australia, the Australian Institute of Sport, an athlete representative and additional members within the Para sport sector.

6. Application Rounds

- Multiple application “rounds” will be available for the program, with the Assessment Panel meeting within the first week of each calendar month to review applications received.
- All applicants will receive notification of the outcome prior to the end of the month following receipt of application. i.e. if an application is received on 10th day of June, the applicant will receive notification of the outcome of the application prior to the end of July.
- The schedule of assessment panel meetings may increase or decrease commensurate with the number of applications received and funds remaining within the PEEP to be distributed.
- All applicants will be updated accordingly, with more specific information available via the Paralympics Australia website.

7. Additional Terms & Conditions

- Paralympics Australia will conduct a preliminary assessment of applications received to ensure the applicant is eligible to apply, and the application has been completed in full. Incomplete applications may be deemed ineligible. Nominated referees may also be contacted at this time.
- Paralympics Australia may offer an alternative equipment solution which differs from the requested item/s at the discretion of Paralympics Australia.
- All applications (including unsuccessful applications) will be notified via e-mail as to the outcome of the application within the timeframe specified for each round available for the program.
- There is no appeal process for unsuccessful applications. Unsuccessful applications may be carried forward (if eligible) for future rounds of the PEEP. Paralympics Australia will advise the applicant if this is the case.
- Paralympics Australia will communicate with successful applicants regarding the process to acquire equipment for all approved applications, as this may vary depending on the type of equipment approved.

- The item(s) will be recorded as part of a centralised asset registry, which will be updated and maintained. This measure will assist in ensuring we optimise the use of Para sport equipment in future.
- Paralympics Australia has no intention to seek to reclaim the equipment provided whilst the applicant continues to use the equipment in the manner outlined in the application.
- Freight of equipment from the supplier to the applicant will also be considered and supported as part of the approval process.
- The personal details of the Recipient (including their name, home state, sport and the value of the funding provided may be released by Paralympics Australia to the public or the media for promotional purposes.
- The applicant agrees to cooperate with Paralympics Australia, as reasonably requested, in relation to an evaluation of the PEEP.
- If the applicant is under 18 years of age, the application must be supported by their parent or guardian.
- The Recipient agrees to indemnify Paralympics Australia and its officers, employees and contractors against any claim, loss or damage arising in connection with undertaking the Activity associated with the equipment provided.
- The approval of successful applications does not create a relationship of employment, or agency between the Recipient of the equipment and Paralympics Australia.
- For approved applications, Paralympics Australia will communicate and collaborate with the applicant and/or directly with suppliers to purchase and provide approved equipment to the applicant.
- Approved applicants are required to submit a brief report in addition to photos and/or video footage of the equipment received, which outlines the impact of the equipment investment when requested to do so. This information may be used for media or promotional purposes by Paralympics Australia or other funding partners.
- Each application will be viewed and assessed independently against the purpose of each specific stream. Paralympics Australia reserves the right to support, or not support any application at their discretion following review by an assessment panel appointed by Paralympics Australia.

8. Equipment Ownership and Loan Arrangement

8.1. Equipment Fully Funded by Paralympics Australia

- *Ownership:* Where equipment is 100% funded and paid for by Paralympics Australia, the ownership of the equipment shall remain with Paralympics Australia at all times.
- *Use Arrangement:* This equipment is provided to the recipient under an ongoing loan arrangement. The recipient is granted the right to use the equipment for the duration of their active participation in Para sport as outlined in their application, subject to these terms and conditions.

8.2. Equipment with Recipient or Third-Party Contribution

- *Ownership Transfer:* Where the cost of the equipment is co-contributed by the recipient, an alternative funding avenue, or a third party (excluding Paralympics Australia fully funded grants), the ownership of the equipment will be transferred to the recipient upon its successful acquisition.

8.3. Equipment Redistribution Requirement

Requirement to Return Equipment - This clause applies to all equipment, regardless of initial ownership arrangement (as defined in 8.1 and 8.2).

The recipient agrees to the following requirement regarding the future use and availability of the equipment:

- *Cessation of Use or Participation:* Should the recipient no longer require the equipment, cease to actively use the equipment for Para sport, or cease participating in the Para sport system (including, but not limited to, retirement or prolonged inactivity), the recipient is required to ensure the equipment remains available for the benefit of other Para athletes and programs.
- *Redistribution:* To meet this requirement, the recipient must either:
 - Return the equipment to Paralympics Australia; or,
 - Return the equipment to the relevant National Sporting Organisation (NSO) or State Sporting Organisation (SSO) for redistribution.

- Buy-Back Option for Co-Contributed Equipment:
Where the recipient has co-contributed to the cost of the equipment (as per Clause 8.2) and the equipment is required to be returned to Paralympics Australia for redistribution, Paralympics Australia will negotiate a suitable buy-back arrangement with the recipient, if mutually agreed upon and required by Paralympics Australia.
 - *Purpose:* The purpose of this requirement is to ensure the equipment remains within the Para sport system and is available for future use by other Para athletes or programs.
- 8.4. Recipient Responsibilities
- The recipient is responsible for the appropriate use, care, and maintenance of the equipment for the duration of their use. Any equipment on loan must be returned to Paralympics Australia in good working order, allowing for fair wear and tear.

Examples of Para Equipment Items

- Boccia – adapted wheelchair, customised seating, balls, ramps, sport-specific equipment
- Blind Football – side barriers or sport-specific equipment
- Goalball – balls, goals, sport-specific equipment
- Para-alpine skiing – customised seating, prosthetics, sport-specific or customised sit ski, sport-specific equipment
- Para-archery – customised seating, performance aids, prosthetics, sport-specific or customised wheelchair, sport-specific equipment
- Para-athletics – customised seating, performance aids, prosthetics, throwing frame, sport-specific or customised wheelchair, sport-specific equipment
- Para-badminton – customised seating, prosthetics, sport-specific or customised wheelchair, sport-specific equipment
- Para-biathlon – customised seating, prosthetics, sport-specific equipment, customised sit ski,
- Para-canoe – customised seating or attachment, prosthetics, sport-specific equipment

- Para-cross country skiing – customised seating, prosthetics, customised sit ski, sport-specific equipment
- Para-cycling – customised or modified bicycles, handcycle, prosthetics, tandem cycle, tricycle, sport-specific equipment
- Para-equestrian – compensating aids, customised saddle, prosthetics, sport-specific equipment
- Para-ice hockey – sport-specific equipment
- Para-judo – sport-specific equipment
- Para-powerlifting – platform bench, Para-powerlifting bar
- Para-rowing – customised seating and attachments to boats, prosthetics, sport-specific equipment
- Para-shooting – customised seating, sport-specific or customised wheelchair, performance aids, sport-specific equipment
- Para-snowboard – customised bindings or equipment, prosthetics, sport-specific equipment
- Para-sport climbing – prosthetics, sport-specific equipment
- Para-table tennis – customised seating, performance aids, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair, sport-specific equipment
- Para-taekwondo – sport-specific equipment
- Para-triathlon – customised seating, handcycle, prosthetics, sport-specific or adapted wheelchair, tandem cycle, sport-specific equipment
- Sitting volleyball – balls, net, sport-specific equipment
- Wheelchair basketball – customised seating, prosthetics, sport-specific or customised wheelchair, sport-specific equipment
- Wheelchair curling – customised seating, pole, sport-specific equipment
- Wheelchair fencing – customised seating, wheelchair fencing frame, sport-specific or customised wheelchair, sport-specific equipment
- Wheelchair rugby – customised seating, prosthetics, sport-specific or customised wheelchair, sport-specific equipment
- Wheelchair tennis – customised seating, prosthetics, sport-specific or customised wheelchair, sport-specific equipment

The above is not an exclusive list, but provided as a guide to the types of equipment the PEEP aims to primarily support.

How to Apply

1. Carefully read the funding program guidelines to determine whether you meet the eligibility criteria.

2. Complete the application in full.

Links to Application

[Apply for Stream 1 or Stream 2: Athletes](#)

[Apply for Stream 3 or Stream 4: Programs](#)

Further Information

If you are unsure as to your eligibility or the most appropriate Stream to apply for or require assistance to complete the application form, please contact equipment@paralympic.org.au and a representative from Paralympics Australia will respond to your enquiry.