

The BWA adaptive technology equipment subsidies are intended to assist full members gain and maintain independence in daily living, study or employment. Funds are limited so it is anticipated members will exhaust other specific government schemes where available (Employment schemes, NDIS) before applying for funding through BWA.

- 3.3.1 A subsidy may be paid to assist with the cost of purchase of equipment or aids made exclusively for people with low vision or for a multi-use mobile smart devices that come standard with adaptations for the blind. This does not include laptops.
- 3.3.2 No subsidy will be paid on items costing less than \$100.00.
- 3.3.3 A subsidy of fifty (50) percent of the cost price may be paid on items costing \$100.00 or more up to a maximum subsidy of \$3000.00 over a 3 year period.
Additional conditions:
- 3.3.4 Training and professional recommendations: To ensure that equipment is suitable for achieving member goals, their eye-condition, aptitude and proficiency, all equipment subsidy applicants must receive the professional endorsement of a low vision technology trainer or professional.
Preferably this is achieved by attending either BWA or RSB training sessions and/or undertaking an assessment to demonstrate the user's proficiency.
In the case of Smart devices like mobile phones and tablets, proficiency is required in using the adaptive technology associated with the phone not the ability of making a phone call.
- 3.3.5 Adaptive technology subsidies are funded directly from BWA's limited resources and as a result we do not intend to subsidize replacement items unless they are no longer fit for purpose or a change in eye condition renders them obsolete. For example most smart devices should have a minimum life of three years before apps, batteries and software are no longer upgradable, some other devices like brailers and CCTV's should last for many more years. Applicants seeking to replace existing devices should discuss this with BWA staff.
- 3.3.6 This subsidy is for adaptive equipment only and it is the responsibility of the member to ensure they have the capacity to pay for any ongoing costs associated with internet or telephone carrier costs.
- 3.3.7 For approved devices purchased on a plan, BWA will only subsidize half the cost of the device component of the plan.
- 3.3.8 It is the client's responsibility to provide supplier details along with an official quote on supplier's letter head. Also, client has to provide our admin team their account details so that the subsidy goes directly into client's account and more importantly, make sure that the purchase receipts are posted/faxed to the admin team as soon as the purchase is made.
- 3.3.9 Applicants are encouraged to ensure their devices are covered by their own insurance
- 3.3.10 Subsidies will not be paid for any equipment purchased prior to approval or for equipment not meeting our guidelines.
- 3.3.11 If a member finds the equipment unsuitable or unwanted and intends to sell it within two years of purchase they should discuss this with BWA staff as they may be required to refund the BWA the subsidy.
- 3.3.12 All applications for equipment subsidies will be discussed at fortnightly BWA team meeting to ensure all the application requirements are met prior to forwarding to and approval by the BWA Manager.