

Paralympics Australia Para sport Equipment Enhancement Program Guidelines & Application

The Para sport Equipment Enhancement Program provides targeted support to address specific equipment gaps 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 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 and Applicant Types

The PEEP includes four application streams designed to address specific Para sport equipment needs across the participation and performance pathway. Applicants should select the stream that best reflects who is applying, the purpose of the equipment request and the pathway outcome the equipment will support.

- i. Individual athletes with an impairment who are eligible, or likely to be eligible, for Paralympic sport and who are currently competing or interested in competing in Para sport.
- ii. Clubs, programs or organisations delivering, or interested in delivering, sport for people with an impairment who are eligible, or likely to be eligible, for Paralympic sport.

- iii. Each application must identify a specific equipment need or gap. Applications will be assessed by a Paralympics Australia convened moderating panel to ensure the PEEP achieves its intended outcomes.
- iv. The PEEP is open only for sports which are currently contested at the [Paralympic Games](#).

Stream	Applicant type	Primary purpose	Pathway focus
Stream 1: Athlete Participation	Individual athletes who are not categorised by an NSO or NSOD	Support access to Para specific or customised equipment for participation in Para sport	Participation, but with a focus on entry into Paralympic performance pathways
Stream 2: Athlete Performance Pathway	Individual athletes who are categorised by an NSO or NSOD and are within the performance pathway	Support Para specific or customised equipment needs for athletes progressing through the performance pathway	High-performance pathway; priority stream
Stream 3: Program Participation	Community programs, sporting clubs and State Sporting Organisations	Support equipment for group based participation programs for Para athletes	Participation, but with a focus on supporting Paralympic performance pathways and community access
Stream 4: System Wide Performance Support	NSOs, NSODs, SIS/SAS Para sport units and Regional Academies of Sport	Address broader equipment gaps across organisations, programs and performance pathway environments	High-performance pathway and system wide need; priority stream

Stream 1: Athlete Participation Stream

- i. For individual athletes who participate, or want to compete, in Para sport and require Para specific or customised equipment to do so. This stream is for athletes who are not categorised by their respective National Sport Organisation (NSO) or National Sport Organisation for people with Disability (NSOD).

- ii. Whilst performance potential may be considered as part of the assessment process, this is not the primary consideration for this stream.
- iii. For athletes who are not categorised, in alignment with the age profile for performance pathways of the relevant sport, the age of the participant will be of greater consideration when assessing the application

Stream 2: Athlete Performance Pathway Stream

- i. For individual athletes who are categorised by an NSO/NSOD and are within the performance pathway.
- ii. Performance potential may be considered, and engagement with the respective NSO/NSOD may form part of the assessment process.
- iii. Streams 2 and 4 will receive higher priority, recognising their alignment with the high-performance pathway and system wide Para sport equipment needs.
- iv. This stream may also consider NSO/NSOD co contribution models or proposals to achieve optimal outcomes and efficiencies within the high-performance system.
- v. Co-investment with the relevant NSO/NSOD will be viewed favourably as part of the assessment process for this stream.
- vi. Whilst all applications will be considered, it is expected direct AIS investment into NSO/NSOD Para high-performance programs will predominately support Podium and Podium Ready categorised athlete equipment needs.

Stream 3: Program Participation Stream

- i. For community programs, sporting clubs or State Sporting Organisations (SSOs) requiring Para specific or customised sport equipment to deliver participation programs for groups of Para athletes.
- ii. Whilst performance potential may be considered as part of the assessment process, this is not the primary consideration for this stream.
- iii. Programs that provide a daily performance environment and demonstrate strong alignment with the NSO will be given greater consideration.

Stream 4: System Wide Performance Support Stream

- i. For NSO/NSOD, State Institutes and State Academies of Sport (SIS/SAS) Para sport units and Regional Academies of Sport (RAS).
- ii. To address immediate equipment gaps and needs that enable a rapid increase in Para athlete engagement and support the ambition of

- significantly increasing the number of categorised athletes and Para athletes competing within the Para performance pathway and accelerate athlete performance progression.
- iii. Paralympics Australia may directly engage with NSO/NSODs, SIS/SAS Para sport units and RAS to identify and address gaps and needs within sports and organisations.
- iv. Co-investment with the relevant NSO/NSOD will be viewed favourably as part of the assessment process for this stream.
- v. Whilst all applications will be considered, it is expected direct AIS investment into NSO/NSOD Para high-performance programs will predominately support Podium and Podium Ready categorised athlete equipment needs.

2. Additional Para Investment into Equipment and Customised Solutions

Independent of this grant program, continued investment by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) into its Engineering department will support ongoing capacity and capability to address the equipment customisation needs of Para athletes within high-performance programs. NSOs/NSODs 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:

- i. Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident living in Australia.
- ii. 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
- iii. Use the equipment for sport/s currently contested on the Paralympic Games Program. For more information click [here](#).
- iv. Be able to provide storage and maintenance for the equipment.
- v. Understand the equipment item will be numbered and registered with Paralympics Australia, allowing for the system to track its investment, location and ensure optimal use.
- vi. 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.
- vii. 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.
- viii. Explore funding eligibility through alternative funding sources where available, relevant to the athletes' individual circumstances.
(For example, NDIS, TAC, WorkCover, 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:

- i. The barrier to participation or performance progression/outcomes without access to the requested equipment.
- ii. The age of the applicant will be considered alongside the duration of their impairment. For athletes who are not yet categorised, age will be given greater consideration when assessing applications, taking into account the typical performance pathway and age-related performance profiles of the sport/event
- iii. Demonstrated prior engagement with the Para sport for which the equipment is requested.
- iv. The equipment need and perceived benefit against the cost of request.
- v. Options and opportunities to source equipment via alternative means.
- vi. Impact of access to equipment for the individual (wellbeing outcomes) or within community (social outcomes) or future Paralympic performance (performance outcomes).
- vii. Some requested items, or upgrades of items for performance purposes, may be approved (e.g. carbon wheels); however, these 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.

- viii. 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 or other sources.
- ix. Whether the applicant has capability to store and maintain the equipment.
- x. 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.
- xi. Providing false or misleading information may deem applications ineligible.

5. Assessment Panel

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

6. Application Rounds

- i. Multiple application “rounds” will be available for the program, with the Assessment Panel meeting monthly to review applications received.
- ii. All applicants will receive notification of the outcome prior to the end of the month following receipt of application. For example, if an application is received on the 10th day of June, the applicant will receive notification of the outcome prior to the end of July.
- iii. 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.
- iv. All applicants will be updated accordingly, with more specific information available via the Paralympics Australia website.

7. Additional Terms & Conditions

- i. 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.
- ii. Paralympics Australia may offer an alternative equipment solution which differs from the requested item/s at the discretion of Paralympics Australia.

- iii. All applications, including unsuccessful applications, will be notified via email as to the outcome of the application within the timeframe specified for each round available for the program.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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.
- vi. 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 Paralympics Australia optimises the use of Para sport equipment in future.
- vii. 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.
- viii. Freight of equipment from the supplier to the applicant will also be considered and supported as part of the approval process.
- ix. 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.
- x. The applicant agrees to cooperate with Paralympics Australia, as reasonably requested, in relation to an evaluation of the PEEP.
- xi. If the applicant is under 18 years of age, the application must be supported by their parent or guardian.
- xii. 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.
- xiii. The approval of successful applications does not create a relationship of employment, or agency between the Recipient of the equipment and Paralympics Australia.
- xiv. 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.
- xv. 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.

- xvi. Each application will be reviewed and assessed independently against the purpose of each specific stream. Paralympics Australia reserves the right to support, or not support, any application at its discretion following review by an assessment panel appointed by Paralympics Australia.

8. Equipment Ownership and Loan Arrangement

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Equipment Redistribution Requirement
 - ∄ *Requirement to Return Equipment* — this clause applies to all equipment, regardless of initial ownership arrangement (as defined in 8.i and 8.ii).
- iv. 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.ii) 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.

v. 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.

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 is 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.