Equipment Grant COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
Policy Guidelines Individual NSW/ACT

Introduction
Variety NSW/ACT provides access to a technology grant for children living with a disability or chronic illness to increase and encourage their communication where they may not otherwise be afforded the opportunity to do so.

Eligibility
- Applicants must live in NSW or ACT
- Applications can only be accepted for children aged 0 to 18 years
- Previous recipients of a Communication Technology Grant may be eligible to apply again in 2 years
- Unsuccessful applicants may be eligible to reapply again for a Technology grant 12 months after the date listed on their outcome letter

Communication Technology Grant requests
The applicant if successful will be able to utilize the grant to *pay for any items they select from the exclusive list below

- Communication Technology – a technological device or system that provides communication solutions for people with a disability.
    - Communication software or apps
    - Tablet or laptop (up to a value of $1500)
    - Speech generating device - (e.g.: eye control devices, static display devices, dynamic display devices etc.)
    - Voice amplifier
    - External speakers for communication devices
    - Switch for communication device
    - Mounting system - to hold communication device in place
    - Braille

Variety recognises that items needed may not be listed so please contact the Kids Support Team to discuss your request if it is not on the list above.

**Please note Variety NSW/ACT pays direct on invoice only. Cash is not given direct to families. Reimbursements must be preapproved by Variety before processing.*

Communication Technology Grant requests not eligible
The following are examples of what will not be considered as part of the grant request

- Retrospective funding – only items purchased **after** the approval date will be eligible to claim as part of the grant
- Servicing or maintenance
- Insurance/Warranty
- Installation/tech support

Application
- Applications are open all year round
- Applications are made on behalf of the child by a Parent/Carer or another identified support person (Medical professional, caseworker, teacher etc.) aged 18 years and over
- Applicants will be expected to submit a truthful and factual application & attach relevant documentation as evidence, addressing but not limited to the following points:
    - Name and contact details of applicant
    - Details directly related to the child's Community Support Person
    - Financial documents will need to be uploaded to the application related to household income

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Attachments/Evidence

The following attachments must be included as part of the application.

1. A **GP or Pediatrician** on letterhead outlining the child's diagnosis/condition.

   This document must be dated within 12 months at the time of submission

2. An **Allied Health Professional** on letterhead such as an Occupational Therapist referring to the child's diagnosis and referencing the following

   i. how the recommended equipment is beneficial to the child
   ii. evidence of a trial of the equipment

   This document must be dated within 6 months of the application

3. **Household Income** –A or B must be attached to the application.
   a. Health Care Card (view example here)
      If one of the Parent/Carers has a health care card they need to attach a copy of the card. Variety only requires one parent to attach their card. The health care card must be in date and in the Parent/Carers name (not the child's).
      OR
   b. Income
      For each Parent/Carer that selects option B, they must provide copies of the most recent documents (no older than 3 months) related to
      - Payslip if currently employed
        and/or
      - Centrelink Statement if currently receiving any benefits
        If you are employed and receiving Centrelink payments you need to upload copies of your payslip and centrelink statement.

Post-Submission and Assessment

- Submissions are assessed by the Variety Kids Support Team
- Eligible submissions are presented to the Kids Support Committee for approval
- Kids Support Committee meetings are held once a month (except January)

Decision

Outcome letters are emailed to applicants approximately 4-6 weeks after their initial submission

Unsuccessful Applicants

- Reasons pertaining to unsuccessful applications are at the discretion of the Kids Support Committee
- Unsuccessful applicants may be eligible to reapply in 12 months from the date listed on the outcome letter

Successful Applicants

- Successful Applicants have 12 months from the date of approval on their outcome letter to use their grant
- No retrospective funding is eligible
- Invoices are paid directly to suppliers by Variety NSW/ACT
- It is the responsibility of the Parent/Carer to action all appropriate steps after receiving the outcome letter (as directed)
- Any unused and/or unspent funds will be forfeited after the expiry date of the grant

Reporting

The applicant will be asked to complete a short survey at the end of the 12 months. This will be emailed to the applicants prior to the end of their grant expiry.

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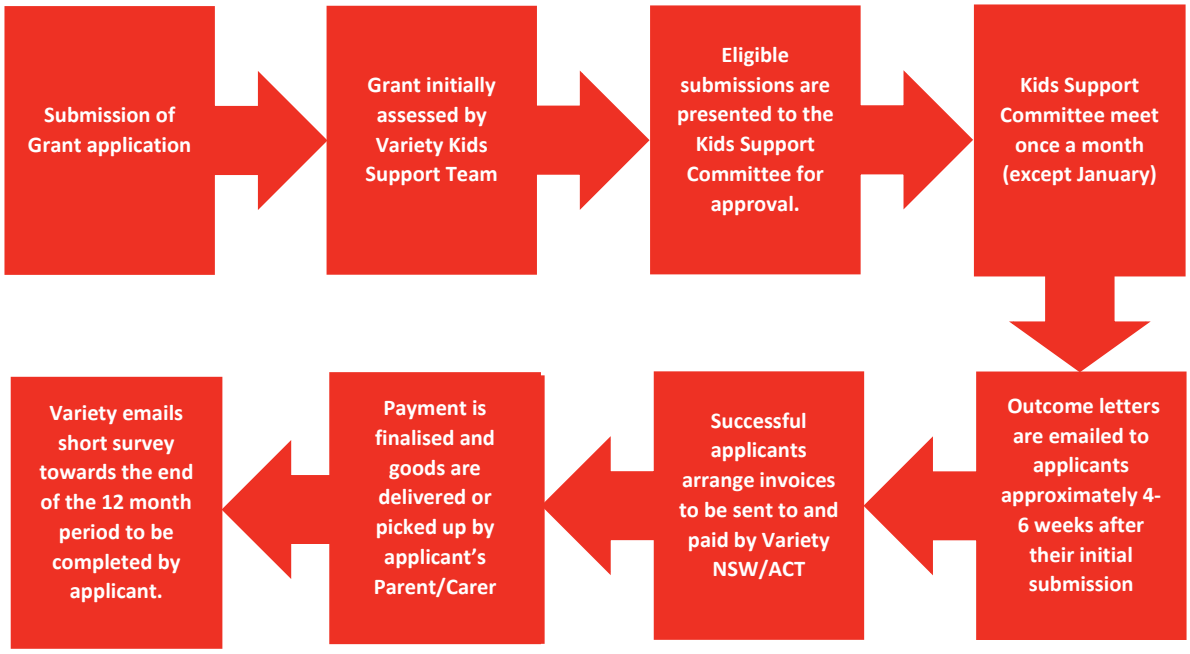
Outside completing a survey and without obligation, Variety enjoys hearing any updates on a child's progress, well-being and achievements once they've received their grant. If the Parent/Carer and the child feel comfortable to share any updates with Variety, please email them through to kidssupport@varietynsw.org.au.

Application Steps/Process



If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact the Kids Support team on kidssupport@varietynsw.org.au