

WE MOVE – Equipment Grant

Guidelines Individual NSW/ACT



Introduction

Variety NSW/ACT provides grants to children for the purchase of life-changing equipment to increase physical development, independence, and social inclusion. The primary aim of the *We Move* grant is to provide disability equipment that is not easily available through statutory services.

Eligibility

You are eligible to apply for a personal grant provided that:

- The beneficiary:
 - is resident in NSW or ACT
 - is aged 18 or under
 - has a disability or long-term health condition as recognised by a designated health professional.
- The family household income is below \$200,000 per annum (this includes child support payments, rental income, investment income or any other income that is received by any parent/carer who is financially responsible for the beneficiary).

Previous recipients and unsuccessful applicants can apply for another grant 12 months after the date listed on their original outcome letter.

Variety NSW/ACT recommends consulting with your NDIS planner, GP, specialist or social/support worker before starting an application so they can best support you through the process. Please show them these policy guidelines or refer them to our website for more information - www.varietynsw.org.au

NDIS

Is your child part of the NDIS?

- **YES**

As part of the application, you will be asked to identify why the item(s) you are requesting are not covered by the child's NDIS plan. Reasons may include, but are not limited to:

 - planning meeting has yet to occur.
 - funds already allocated to other items.
 - item was not supported by the NDIS (an explanation will need to be provided)
 - wait time for NDIS decision has become detrimental to the beneficiary.
- **NO**

Applications are welcome from children aged 0-18 years who have been medically diagnosed with a chronic illness or disability and are not approved under the NDIS.

We Move Grants

Grant will fund:

The applicant can select one or more items as part of their grant request. These must be directly related to the child's diagnosis and supported by a GP or allied health professional (please see 'Documentation' below). The items listed on the application will form the basis of the grant and if successful, cannot be amended after the approval date. Our current grant priorities are, but not limited to:

- Adaptive toys

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- Robotic Feeders
- Special needs strollers and pushchairs (strictly for children aged five years and younger)
- Wheelchairs – powered/electric/manual/sports (must be assessed, prescribed, and trialed by a licensed OT)
- Carrot Car Seats
- Paediatric wheelchairs e.g. Permobil Koala and Wizzy Bugs
- Bikes – including modified bikes, trikes and scooters
- Race Runners
- Assistance dogs (partial funding)

Grants will not fund:

- Services or equipment not directly related to a child's special/extra needs and which are not deemed medically/developmentally necessary
- Travel expenses – including public transport and petrol
- Warranties, insurance, maintenance, service agreements, batteries, repairs
- Administrative fees or operational costs
- Sports equipment that is non-adaptive or not sure support special needs
- Children or young people over 19 years old
- More than one grant request in a 12-month period
- Expenses that have already been initiated or have already occurred prior to submission or written approval
- Incomplete application forms
- Equipment from non-Australian distributors that cannot be invoiced directly to Variety or services outside Australia

Application

- Applications are open all year round.
- An application can be started by a parent/carer, healthcare professional, social worker, support worker, teacher etc. but must be signed and submitted by the primary parent/carer. Applicants will be expected to submit a truthful and factual application and attach relevant documentation as evidence.

Documentation

Applicants need to ensure their application addresses all required criteria and information. Incomplete applications risk being delayed or in some cases, denied.

All *We Move* grant requests require the following documents:

1. Confirmation of the child's diagnosis/condition on letterhead from a GP, paediatrician or medical specialist. This document must be dated within 12 months at the time of submission.
2. Support letter from a relevant healthcare professional (such as an occupational therapist, speech therapist, physiotherapist or paediatrician) to address the following criteria:
 - i. The need for the request
 - ii. How the request will support the overall care plan and benefit the child
 - iii. evidence of a trial of the equipment (if applicable)

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This document must be dated within six months of the application.

3. Proof of exhausted or denied NDIS funding as applicable.
4. Two quotes for the requested equipment from suppliers that you wish to use. These must be no older than three months at the time of submission and must remain valid throughout the assessment process. Variety NSW already has agreements with suppliers and may choose to source the equipment from another source, or depending on the longevity of the equipment requested may choose to fund the hire, rather than the outright purchase, of the equipment.
5. Proof of household Income:

For all applicants: your 2019/2020 ATO Income statement.

PLUS

- i. If unemployed and receiving Centrelink payments: your most recent activity statement. (You can view, download or request a copy of your activity statement via your Centrelink online account through myGov).
- ii. If employed (full time, part time or casual) and receiving wages: your most recent payslip. This must show your annual income.
- iii. If employed and receiving Centrelink payments: your most recent payslip and Centrelink activity statement.

If parents are separated and one is still contributing to the child's needs (but living outside the household), their financial documentation is also required.

Contribution

Where an applicant is not requesting the full amount for an item, they must identify in their application how much money they are able to contribute (either personally or through other means of support). For instance, if the total quote for an item is \$1000 and an applicant selects to contribute \$150, the amount requested for a Variety Grant would equal \$850.

Post-Submission and Assessment – 2021

Variety NSW We Move grants are open all year round. They are reviewed by the Kids Support Committee every two months between February and December at a meeting held mid-month. After submission, applications will be assessed by the Committee at the next scheduled meeting. You will receive notification by email when your application has been assessed. Please allow up to 8 weeks for the process to be complete.

Each application is assessed by the Kids Support team on its own merit and equal weighting is given to both the financial situation and the needs of the beneficiary.

Eligible submissions are presented to the Kids Support Committee for the final decision.

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Decision

Outcome letters are emailed to applicants following assessment by the Kids Support Committee.

Unsuccessful Applicants

- Reasons pertaining to unsuccessful applications are at the discretion of the Kids Support Committee and will not be disclosed to the applicant.
- Unsuccessful applicants may be eligible to reapply in 12 months from the date listed on the letter.

Successful Applicants

Next step instructions will be provided to successful applicants in their outcome letter.

- Successful applicants have 12 months from the date of approval on their outcome letter to use their grant.
- No retrospective funding is eligible.
- The supplier specified in the application must provide the applicant with a tax invoice payable to Variety NSW/ACT for the approved item and amount (Please note: Variety NSW/ACT does not provide money directly to applicants).
- It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to action all appropriate steps after receiving the outcome letter (as directed).
- Any unspent funds will be forfeited after the expiry date of the grant.

Outcome Reporting

Variety takes great care and pride to ensure that their grants are correctly used to the positive benefit of our children. Applicants will be invited to sign a media release form to grant Variety NSW/ACT the right to use any image or testimonial you have supplied to us on our website or through social media.

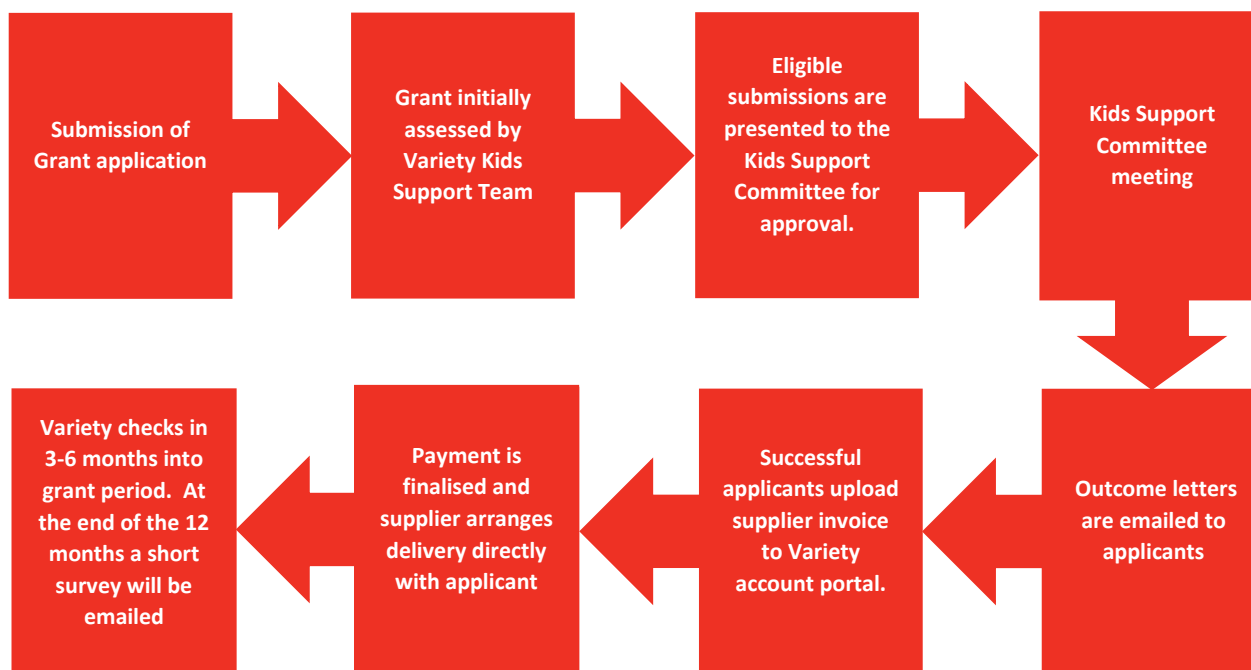
As we rely on donations and sponsors to fund our projects, this not only provides us with transparency, but is also a great way to say thank you to those who have helped and encourage any future support for even more children.

A short survey will be emailed when the grant period is completed after 12 months.

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Application Steps/Process



If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Kids Support team on kidssupport@varietyNSW.org.au