

A Guide to Selecting Second Hand Equipment



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Assistive technology (AT) is a piece of equipment, device or system that provides people with practical solutions to everyday life activities. You can search our National Equipment Database www.askned.com.au to view a range of products online.

Buying second-hand equipment can be an affordable option for many people with a disability. However, it is important to keep in mind that buying used items or second-hand items does not provide the same consumer protection rights as when buying new items.

It is important to check the product's condition before buying or accepting second-hand goods.

You may want to seek assistance to ensure that a piece of equipment is suitable by organising a health professional to support you with selection of the equipment.

Keep in mind that it is better to avoid products that have suffered an impact. While a product may look undamaged, it may have weaknesses that make it unsafe for use. Repaired and modified second-hand products may cause serious injury or death.

Fitted items, such as stair-lifts or overhead hoists, would have been customised to suit the needs of the previous owner. Check that tracking and other fittings suit your requirements.

These items should have a safety check and may need to be reconditioned. It is advisable to consult a supplier of these items before making a private second-hand purchase.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) recommend checking the Product Safety Australia website www.productsafety.gov.au for a list of bans and mandatory standards to help identify products to avoid.

The following is a checklist of considerations to help you to select second-hand items.

Current condition

- Is the item sturdy and stable?
- Does the item come with full instructions for assembly and use?
- Do all parts work correctly?
- Does the item have safety instructions?
- What is the manufacturer's life expectancy for the item?
- Was the item broken or damaged during previous use?
- Does the item have tears, sharp edges, or points?
- Is the item missing any vital parts?
- Does the item have a history of being in an accident or being damaged?
- Is there hygiene issues associated with purchasing this second-hand item (e.g. urinal, mattress, etc.)?
- Does the item have an Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) number?

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is Australia's regulatory authority for therapeutic goods. Visit: www.tga.gov.au.



Repair/maintenance

- Is the item still covered by the warranty?
- Was the item banned by the manufacturer/supplier for safety reasons?
- Was the item recalled by the manufacturer/supplier for safety reasons?
- Was the item repaired previously?
- Who completed these repairs?
- Did the item have any changes made that will make it unsafe (e.g. wrong size mattress in a cot)?
- Are new parts that replace broken parts still compatible with the item?
- Can the item be fixed, if necessary, by the original supplier?
- Have you checked for mandatory safety standards or bans that may cover the second-hand product?

Buying online

Check that the product is clearly identified, and all the important details are described, delivery options and costs are clear, and that you can easily contact the seller if anything goes wrong. This is particularly important when buying on auction or second-hand sites.

If possible, arrange a trial of the product to ensure suitability prior to purchasing.

Safety standards apply to many products sold in Australia. If you buy from an overseas website, there is a risk that the product would not meet Australian standards. Look for statements that the item is certified to the relevant Australian standard.

Sources of second-hand equipment

The following websites provide a forum for people to buy and sell second hand assistive technology and equipment in Australia.

Ability Classifieds

Ability Classifieds is an advertising resource that connects Australians who wish to buy or sell new or used Disability Aids.

Visit: www.abilityclassifieds.com

e-Bility

e-Bility is an advertising resource that connects Australians wishing to buy or sell used disability equipment and accessible vehicles.

Visit: <https://ebility.com.au/en/>

West Perth Rotary Medical Equipment Recycling (MERC)

Collect and accept donated second-hand equipment such as wheelchairs and hospital beds. They should be in good and clean condition.

Contact Rotary directly to discuss suitability, as they accept a wide range of equipment.

Visit: [www.rotarywestperth.org.au/stories/medical-equipment-recycling-committee-\(merc\)](http://www.rotarywestperth.org.au/stories/medical-equipment-recycling-committee-(merc))

Other online options

- There are several Facebook groups that help people buy and sell second hand assistive equipment.
- Facebook Marketplace is a platform within Facebook where users can buy and sell items locally. It allows users to list products such as disability equipment.
- eBay is an online marketplace where users can buy and sell new and used items through auctions or fixed-price listings. It offers secure transactions with payment processing and buyer protection. Visit: www.ebay.com.au
- Gumtree is an online classifieds platform where users can buy and sell a variety of items locally, such as disability equipment. It allows individuals to post free ads and connect with buyers or sellers in their area. Visit: www.gumtree.com.au

Local newspapers

Community papers, The West Australian, The Sunday Times and The Quokka etc. can also be options for buying and selling.

INDIGO

P - (08) 9381 0600
E - help@indigo.org.au
W - indigo.org.au