

SPECIALISED WHEELCHAIR AND POSTURE SEATING SERVICE (SWAPS)



Aged Care and Rehabilitation Service
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What is SWAPS?

SWAPS is a specialised consultancy service that assists clients, carers and treating therapists address the wheelchair needs of clients who:

- are chair bound with severe postural / tonal factors
- require specialist Seating Therapist assessment
- require a customised wheelchair and/or a pressure management system

What does SWAPS provide for clients?

- A biomechanical assessment of their postural needs.
- An assessment of their wheelchair seating requirements.
- Recommendations regarding appropriate, customised wheelchair seating options that best meet client needs.
- Facilitation of the implementation of these recommendations. This can be by:
 - technician input to modify existing wheelchair and / or seating systems.
 - manufacture of specialised, customised seating options.
 - coordination with various suppliers and agencies to facilitate the best outcome for the client. eg. product trials/demonstrations.
- Scheduled review as required.

What needs to be done before a client is referred to SWAPS?

As SWAPS is a consultancy service that looks at the specific wheelchair posture and seating needs, the following issues need to have been considered beforehand to ensure clients referred to the service get the most out of their sessions and that wheelchair prescriptions are appropriate:

- Identification of funding options and sources for the wheelchair and related equipment.
- Completion of an initial assessment by a primary treating therapist of what a client's wheelchair needs are for daily use and activities.

How to refer to Specialised Wheelchair and Posture Seating Service:

1. Contact the CHI on 6207 9977.
Treating therapists can make referrals directly via CCIS to Lorellie Stanton – CRP SWAPS Senior. *Clients must have a primary treating therapist prior to a referral being accepted.*
2. The primary therapist must complete a SWAPS Client Information Form.
This form will be sent to them upon receipt of the referral. The form must be returned in hard copy before an appointment is offered.

Referrals to SWAPS are accepted from:

- Allied Health Professional
- Medical consultant or practitioner
- Community Nurse
- Service Providers.
- Self

Clients will be prioritised according to needs.
A waiting period may apply.

Client eligibility and costs.

SWAPS is a HACCC funded service set up to meet the needs of children and adult residents living in the community who have complex wheelchair and pressure seating needs. For HACCC eligible clients within the ACT there are no fees for assessment or advice. Fee for service is available for other clients requiring SWAPS input. Costs are available upon enquiry.

The costs of equipment and / or of services separate from SWAPS are not covered by SWAPS.

So what happens? The role of SWAPS

1. A letter identifying a referral has been accepted is forwarded to the client and referrer following the receipt of the referral.
2. An initial assessment will be booked with SWAPS once all needed information has been provided.
3. An initial assessment occurs. The client and primary treating therapist must attend this session. Carers are also invited to attend as required to contribute to the assessment process.
 - Agreed goals and an action plan are established at the end of this assessment.
4. Follow up of the action plan occurs with the SWAPS therapist, technicians, suppliers and other agencies as required.
5. At the end of this process, recommendations are made for equipment prescription. Recommendations are reviewed as required until these are accepted. Referral to another service can be made if needed.
6. Once agreement has been reached, and funding has been arranged for the equipment, SWAPS will follow up those recommendations as required.

The role of the primary treating therapist

As SWAPS operates as a consultancy service, and there is a high level of demand for services, a primary treating therapist is required to follow up issues with clients. This includes:

- Completion of the initial SWAPS Client information Form before an initial SWAPS assessment can occur
- Attendance and participation in initial SWAPS assessment and follow up sessions to ensure required information and detail regarding the client's requirements are identified.
- Follow up of issues related to the daily use of the chair with the client and carers (eg. daily living management, transfers, and access issues).
- Assisting clients / carers to arrange funding for the wheelchair / seating systems prescribed for the client.
- Monitor issues arising after the fitting and liaise with SWAPS as required to organise follow up.

Note: It is expected that the primary treating therapist will coordinate the care and follow up for clients.

If at any stage a client / carer does not wish to continue with the process, or if other issues result in follow up by SWAPS no longer remaining a priority, SWAPS will discharge the referral 1 month following last contact. Re-referral will be accepted if needs or situations change in the future.