



# Media release

## **The Hon Mary Wooldridge MP**

Minister for Mental Health  
Minister for Community Services  
Minister for Disability Services and Reform

Monday 1 September 2014

## **\$4 million boost for people needing aids and equipment**

- **Napthine Government investing an additional \$4 million this year in Victorian Aids and Equipment Program.**
- **Funding will provide direct relief and support to over 2,000 Victorians, including about 480 children.**
- **The Napthine Government building a more inclusive and accessible Victoria**

An additional 2,000 people with a disability will receive immediate support to purchase aids and equipment as a result of a \$4 million funding boost from the Victorian Coalition Government.

Announcing the funding today, Minister for Disability Services and Reform, Mary Wooldridge said approximately 32,000 people across Victoria this year will receive funding to purchase aids and equipment.

“This funding will make a fundamental difference for people with a disability who need help to buy things such as wheelchairs and walking aids, or to make adjustments to their home or vehicle,” Ms Wooldridge said.

“Aids and equipment support can mean home modifications to help people to live independently, mobility equipment to enable them to enjoy their communities, or medical devices that make daily activities more accessible.

“For example, one older couple has used an Aids and Equipment grant to modify their bathtub so that they can continue to live at home without in-home care attendants. This makes all the difference in terms of privacy, dignity, and quality of life.”

Ms Wooldridge said the investment is in addition to the \$1.3 million funding boost committed in the 2014-15 Victorian State Budget for aids and equipment, bringing the Napthine Government’s total additional investment in the program to \$5.3 million this year.

The Victorian statewide Aids and Equipment Program is administered by Ballarat Health Services, with the goal of providing people with a permanent or long-term disability with subsidised aids and equipment to enhance their independence and facilitate their participation in the community.

For more information visit <http://swep.bhs.org.au>.

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