

Assistive Technology for Employees with a Disability

What is the Assistive Technology and Equipment Program?

The Assistive Technology and Equipment Program (ATEP) is a NSW government initiative which provides funding for assistive technology and equipment for people with a disability employed, or about to be employed, in the NSW public sector.

The program provides funds for assistive technology or other appropriate equipment, which will enhance and expand opportunities for people with disabilities transition into, and employment and career development within, the NSW public sector.

The program is not intended to replace an employers' responsibility to provide reasonable adjustments. This program is administered by the [NSW Department of Education and Training \(DET\)](#). Equipment will be provided on an individual basis according to need and subjective to the availability of funds.

Objectives

- To improve the representation of people with disabilities into and across all levels and occupations in the NSW public sector
- To help ensure that recruitment and promotion processes are equitable to all people
- To enable substantive equality for people with disabilities employed or accessing employment, relevant training programs and career development opportunities in the NSW public sector
- To help ensure safe and effective work environments free from physical barriers and restrictive work practices.

Eligibility and Conditions

People with a disability who are:

- employed in the NSW public sector;
- entering the NSW public sector from vocational education and training;
- seeking equipment that will enhance and expand opportunities to fully participate in vocational training, employment and career development in the NSW public sector and
- seeking equipment valued between \$750 and \$5000.

Equipment WILL NOT be provided under this Program:

- if it can be obtained through the workplace;
- if it can be obtained by the applicant without cost from another source such as the (Commonwealth) Workplace Modifications Scheme;
- if the equipment would primarily benefit the Department rather than the person with a disability;
- if it is of a personal or prosthetic nature (e.g. hearing aids, spectacles, artificial limbs) and which does not provide modification specific to enhancing employment or employment prospects.

What types of funding are available?

Applicants must seek equipment valued between \$750 and \$5,000. Any equipment over \$5,000 cannot be covered by the program, thus the applicant is referred to the JobAccess Employment Assistance Fund.

What types of modifications does the ATEP cover? Can costs be reimbursed?

The fund cannot reimburse the cost of modifications, as applicants apply up-front to the program. However, the types of modifications the ATEP covers includes anything that is related to assistive technology equipment and software, including:

- JAWS
- Screen reader software
- Hearing Equipment

ATEP may cover the cost of major maintenance, modifications or replacement costs to equipment provided. Minor maintenance or modification costs to equipment purchased under this program should be met by the workplace.

How do I apply for assistance?

Applicants can apply to Trish Richardson at 9244 5478 or 4570 9025, or email ATEP@det.nsw.edu.au for more information or to obtain an application form.

Completed application forms should be accompanied by a supporting submission from the department employing, or about to employ, the applicant.

Costs for training on the new equipment may be included in the application.