

# Understanding the LSA Decision Making Process

## For treatment, care and support for participants of the Lifetime Support Scheme (LSS)

When considering what treatment, care and support you require, the Lifetime Support Authority (LSA) will consider:

- is the item related to the motor vehicle injuries?
- is the item treatment, care and/or support?
- is the item necessary and reasonable in the circumstances?

## What is Treatment, Care and Support in the LSS?

The LSA can only fund services and items within the scope of the Motor Vehicle Accidents (Lifetime Support Scheme) Act 2013 and the LSS Rules. Treatment, care and support is defined in the Act to include:

- medical treatment, including pharmaceuticals;
- dental treatment;
- rehabilitation;
- ambulance transportation;
- respite care;
- attendant care and support services;
- aids and appliances;
- prostheses;
- educational and vocational training;
- home and transport modification;
- workplace modification;
- such other kinds of treatment, care and support services as may be prescribed by the regulations; and

- such other kinds of treatment, care and support or services as may be determined by the Authority (either generally, for specified classes of cases, or for a particular person).

Examples of items which are not considered to be treatment, care and support include:

- rent and bonds
- textbooks and school fees
- footwear/runners (not orthoses, not modified)
- standard household items and items of clothing
- extended warranties
- outright purchase of cars
- items for other members of the participant's family or household
- travel expenses for the participant, their family or attendant care workers except to and from approved treatment, care and support services
- services that replace parental responsibilities, such as the supervision of a young child.
- ordinary costs of raising a child
- gratuitous services
- economic loss
- lost wages, maintenance and income support
- assistance to keep a business open i.e. paying for temporary staff to do a participant's job
- additional expenses incurred during inpatient or outpatient rehabilitation such as food, laundry, newspapers and magazines

# Understanding the LSA Decision Making Process

If the item is not considered to be treatment, care and support your Service Planner can work with you, service providers and other programs to facilitate access from other services where there may be congruence with your planned treatment, care and support.

## Is it Necessary and Reasonable?

The LSA will pay for the necessary and reasonable treatment, care and support you need as a result of your motor accident injury. The LSA may pay for treatment, care and support items that are not specified in the LSS Rules if determined by the LSA to be necessary and reasonable in the circumstances.

Necessary and reasonable is defined as:

### a) **Benefit to the participant:**

- demonstrated to relate to the participant's goals and the goals are SMART,
- will progress or maintain the participant's recovery,
- has been provided in the past with positive results or outcomes, and
- any potential risks are sufficiently offset by the expected benefits.

### b) **Appropriateness of the service:**

- consistent with the current treatment approach,
- relates to the participant's goal's,
- considered current clinical and evidence based practice,
- a similar service is not currently provided,
- there is good evidence that the service is effective,
- is consistent with other services proposed/provided,
- cost is reasonable considering the injury and severity, and,
- if new or innovative, there is sufficient rationale and outcome measures identified.

### c) **Appropriateness of Provider:**

- qualified and appropriately experienced,
- LSA approved provider (if not involving self-management) where applicable,
- without conflicts of interest, and
- accepted by and accessible to the participant.

### d) **Cost Effectiveness Considerations:**

- consideration of the long term versus short term benefits taking into account evidence base, clinical experience and cost,
- cost is competitive in the local relevant market,
- any alternatives have been considered and are not available/appropriate,
- lease/rental costs considered versus purchase costs, and

### e) **Relationship to motor vehicle injury:**

- there is evidence the service is related to the motor vehicle injury including exacerbations of pre-existing injuries or conditions, and
- consideration of impact of time since injury, subsequent injuries and co-morbidities.

Where you are unsure whether an item or service is treatment, care or support, please discuss it with the LSA.

## What if my needs and circumstances change?

Your treatment, care and support needs will be reviewed regularly to ensure you are receiving the items and services you need. If your goals or needs have changed, speak to your Service Planner.