

# Variety Tasmania Grants Guidelines

## Individuals & Families

### How does Variety Tasmania help?

Variety Tasmania provides practical equipment, resources and experiences for Tasmanian who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs. Grants are provided through three broad programs:

- **Freedom**

The Variety Freedom program provides funding for mobility equipment for children such as wheelchairs, walking frames and customised tricycles, allowing children the joy of movement and play; and the ability to share all-inclusive social experiences with other children in the community.

- **Future Kids**

The Variety Future Kids program provides children with intellectual or physical disabilities, access to a technology that can positively transform their classroom experience and academic performance.

For children with Autism or other learning difficulties, specialised computers, tablets and software packages can help a child speak their first word, or write down their own thoughts independently.

- **Caring For Kids**

The Variety Caring for Kids Program grants financial assistance for essential medical and health equipment to care for kids at home, in the community and in hospital. This program provides financial assistance for equipment such as nebulisers, insulin pumps, cough assist machines and more.

- **Princess Charlotte Alopecia Program (PCAP)**

The Alopecia Program grant wigs for children who suffer with Alopecia Areata, a condition where hair is lost from areas of the body (usually from the scalp) for which there is no known cure. Alopecia can be the cause of psychological stress and social phobia due to appearance changes. To help instil confidence and self-esteem in these children, Variety grants specialised wigs that are created out of human hair. The Alopecia Program is administered through the Variety New South Wales office. For more information, phone (02) 9819 1000.

- **Smile Program**

The Smile Program aims to improve the quality of life of children living with a rare disease or condition in Australia by providing financial and practical assistance and facilitating access to information, resources and services for their families and carers.

Variety's Smile Medical Support Grant provides assistance to families with a child who has a rare disease or condition, to purchase minor items and services relating to their child's healthcare, over a 12 month period. Through this program, Variety provides a one-off grant of \$1,000 for expenses relating to medical appointments, healthcare items, therapy and respite care. The Smile Program also provides the service of a Case Manager who will be available to support families affected by rare disease, helping to find support networks and assistance. The Smile Program is administered through the Variety New South Wales office. For more information, phone (02) 9819 1000.

## Who is eligible for assistance?

Assistance is available for Tasmanian children aged up to 17 years, who sick, disadvantaged or have special needs. Variety also supports schools, community groups or other organisations that help kids in need.

To apply for assistance, you must be able to demonstrate a genuine need (including financial evidence) and information on how the assistance requested will meet this need. The following conditions apply to all grant applications:

- Persons 18 years and over are not eligible for assistance under Variety's Charter.
- Variety Tasmania does not give cash donations - only the purchase of equipment and tangible items.
- Variety Tasmania will consider applications from households with a total net income of less than \$75,000 per annum. However, in circumstances where the household income exceeds \$75,000 per annum, further detail (such as household expenses) may be requested before the application is considered.
- Applications will not be considered for retrospective funding.
- Variety Tasmania does not generally fund research or rehabilitation services, individual transport needs including vehicles, medical or service provider costs, or salaries and administration costs. Fixed modifications are generally a low priority application.
- As a general rule, there is a limit of one Grant per recipient per year, except in special circumstances.
- Variety Tasmania will not approve Grant applications where alternative funding sources are available. Proof of any unsuccessful alternate funding should be included in the application.

## How can I apply for help?

Variety aims to 'fill the gaps' and prioritise the most urgent grant requests where there are no alternate sources of support.

Children and young people may have access to various funding sources. Due to the volume of grant requests that are received each year, the Variety Tasmania Board requests that all alternative funding options are exhausted prior to submitting a grant request.

In some instances, Variety will provide part funding, if another agency cannot fund the entire cost of equipment or a project. An example would be part contribution towards a mobility aid.

Your first step in obtaining assistance would be to investigate the most suitable funding options. Please feel free to contact any relevant organisations below before applying to Variety.

Alternative Funding Options *		
Funding Source	Details	Website Link
<b>Community Equipment Scheme (CES)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centrelink Benefit Recipient</li> <li>• Lived in Tasmania for longer than 3 months</li> <li>• Not eligible through other funded bodies</li> <li>• Not in receipt of or entitled to MAIB, DVA, CRS or compensation</li> <li>• Up to \$6000 per item</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/RHH/treatments_and_services/community_equipment_scheme">https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/RHH/treatments_and_services/community_equipment_scheme</a>
<b>National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently clients aged 15-24</li> <li>• May be able to access funds for equipment through their NDIS plan</li> <li>• Need to register with NDIS and be assessed by a planner</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/tas#who">http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/tas#who</a>
<b>Gateway Services (Mission Australia/BaptCare)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clients registered with Gateway services</li> <li>• May be able to access funding through the IFU (Independent Funding Unit)</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/disability/gateway_services">http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/disability/gateway_services</a>

Alternative Funding Options*		
Funding Source	Details	Website Link
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families need to contact their case worker and will need letters of support</li> </ul>	
<b>Orthotics/Prosthetics &amp; Specialised Seating (Tasmania Health Service)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clients with specialised seating needs</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/RHH/treatments_and_services/orthotic_and_prosthetic_service">https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/RHH/treatments_and_services/orthotic_and_prosthetic_service</a>
<b>Cerebral Palsy Tasmania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.cptas.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=21&amp;Itemid=36">http://www.cptas.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=21&amp;Itemid=36</a>
<b>HCWA (Helping Children with Autism)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder</li> <li>Up to \$2100 per financial year for equipment (capped at \$4200)</li> <li>Funding ceases on 7th birthday (need to register prior to child's 6th birthday)</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.autism.net.au/FaHCSIA_Funding.htm">http://www.autism.net.au/FaHCSIA_Funding.htm</a>
<b>Better Start</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to \$2100 per financial year for equipment (capped at \$4200)</li> <li>Funding ceases on 7th birthday</li> <li>Need to register prior to child's 6th birthday</li> <li>Diagnosed with:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cerebral palsy</li> <li>Deafblindness</li> <li>Down syndrome, including mosaic Down syndrome</li> <li>Fragile X syndrome with full mutation</li> <li>Hearing impairment</li> <li>Sight impairment</li> <li>Prader-Willi syndrome</li> <li>Williams syndrome</li> <li>Angelman syndrome</li> <li>Kabuki syndrome</li> <li>Smith-Magenis syndrome</li> <li>CHARGE syndrome</li> <li>Cornelia de Lange syndrome</li> <li>Rett's Disorder</li> <li>Cri du Chat syndrome; or</li> <li>Microcephaly</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.betterstart.net.au/">http://www.betterstart.net.au/</a>

\*Information is provided as a guide only and may not be accurate based on each organisation's policy changes. Please contact each organisation directly to obtain current funding information.

## How can I contact Variety for support?

You can request support at any time by completing Variety's application form, which can be accessed online at [www.variety.org.au/tas](http://www.variety.org.au/tas). If you require assistance in accessing or understanding the application form or process, please feel free to telephone Variety's office to speak with a helpful representative on (03) 6248 4888.

1. When completing the application form, ensure you provide as much detail as possible. This will speed up the process of investigation.
2. Whilst completing your application form, you will need to include copies of supporting documents, such as:
  - a. One copy of a recent notice or document that includes your name and address (e.g. copy of drivers licence, vehicle registration, electricity bill, phone bill, rates notice, bank or credit card statement – select only one document).
  - b. Two letters of support from a doctor, medical specialist, counsellor, therapist, school teacher, educator or social worker that describes the benefits of the item/s.

Please note that letters from 'allied parties' will not be considered as separate recommendations and further letters of recommendation will be required (for example, a teacher and principal from the same school, or an occupational therapist and physiotherapist from the same company/provider).

- c. Proof of income from all relevant parent/guardians will be required with Grant Applications. For those receiving paid employment, please provide copies of 4 recent payslips. If receiving Government Assistance, please provide a copies of Centrelink Statements. For those self-employed, a copy of the ATO's Notice of Assessment/tax return for the most recent financial year should be provided.
- d. Quotes from two suppliers. The quotes must be less than two months old and include GST and freight charges, if applicable. The two quote rule can be varied if:
  - i. The child's family is in a remote area and there is only one supplier nearby.
  - ii. There is only one supplier in Tasmania.

When all features or capabilities of equipment/items are equal, and only the price is affected - Variety will only pay for the most competitive price from the quotes presented.

## What items does Variety normally grant?

Variety Tasmania's Grants Programs are designed to be flexible and allow you to apply for the items that best meet your child's individual needs. Variety understands that every child is different, so every application is considered on a case by case basis.

The following information is general in nature and provided only as an example, to assist you in completing your application:

- **iPads**

Where funding is granted for an iPad, the model shall be a 32GB iPad Air (Wi-Fi only) with a Griffin Survivor Heavy Duty Protection Case, unless sufficient reason for selecting a different model is provided in the application. This must be a written recommendation from a medical practitioner. On receipt of this information, the recommended model will be considered by the Grants Committee. If the family wishes to have a device with larger capacity; they may fund the difference in price between a 32GB iPad Air and the device of their choice.

- **Wheelchairs**

Variety may grant up to \$6000 for a wheelchair. In general, Variety will match contributions from other funding sources, up to the maximum amount of \$6000. In most cases, other funding can be provided by the Community Equipment Scheme (CES).

- **Software**

Should Variety approve a grant for the purchase of specialised software, the approval shall generally be for one copy only. In the case of licensed software, Variety may approve a single licence for the user only. In most cases, the licence is transferrable across different physical computers; however the grant recipient will always retain ownership of the licence.

## How long does the process take?

Once you have submitted your application, Variety will acknowledge receipt of your application by email or letter. If further information is required from you, a Variety representative will contact you in due course.

All applications are assessed by an independent Grants Committee, which usually meets at the beginning of every month. Variety's Committee will try to assess all applications quickly, however some requests may take between eight to twelve weeks for a decision to be made.

Please note that approval of applications is at the absolute discretion of the Variety Tasmania Board and compliance with these Guidelines does not guarantee approval of an application.

Variety will advise you in writing of the outcome, as soon as a decision has been made.

## Will Variety publish details about my child's grant?

The story of all successful applicants, including the grant amount they receive, may be made publically available by Variety Tasmania for marketing purposes, unless otherwise requested by the grant recipient due to extenuating circumstances.

Example: *'7 year old Amy has Autism and experiences developmental delay. Variety Tasmania gifted Amy an iPad to assist with the development of her communication skills'.*

Variety's most successful way of raising money for children in need is to demonstrate by way of images and personal accounts, how donations are making a positive impact on the lives of children in need. Allowing Variety to tell your story, provides its corporate partners and supporters insight into Variety's work and encourages more donations and support.

## What happens if my application is successful?

If your application is successful, grant funding is conditional upon the following:

- Funds will be paid directly to the supplier on receipt of its invoice. No payment will be made directly to the organisation, nor will cash payments be made.
- When the equipment is delivered or installed, the ownership is transferred directly from the supplier to the child. As Variety is not the owner of the equipment, it is not liable for any ongoing maintenance or insurance.
- Equipment and services granted cannot be varied without the prior consent of Variety's Grants Committee.
- Grants must be spent within 12 months.