

Home and Vehicle Modifications

Home modifications

The Lifetime Support Authority (LSA) will pay for necessary and reasonable modifications to your home so you can live there comfortably. Home modification is a complicated area and the LSA will look at your short-term and long-term needs as well as reasonable alternatives before it decides what modifications it will fund. It will also depend on whether the house that you live in is suitable for modification, and whether it is rented or owned by you.

You will be consulted about proposed modifications to your home and you will be asked whether or not you agree to the modifications.

The LSA will first ensure your home is, in its opinion, reasonably able to be modified. It will be assessed by an appropriately qualified occupational therapist and, where the proposed modifications involve structural changes to your home, a builder, chosen by the LSA.

To decide whether the proposed modifications are necessary and reasonable, the LSA will consider:

- the length of time that you will be likely to need the modifications and the likelihood of this changing
- who owns the property
- anything about the property that would make it difficult to modify
- permission from the owner or body corporate
- planning regulations and building permits
- length of a lease of a rental property
- length of time you expect to live in the property.

The LSA can also approve temporary or staged modifications, depending on your individual circumstances.

If your home is unable to be modified the LSA will pay for the necessary and reasonable costs to move you to relocate to another property, including things like advertising costs, agents' fees, legal and conveyancing fees, stamp duty and removal costs. The LSA will not pay for these costs if you decide to move house for reasons unrelated to your motor accident injuries.

The LSA will not pay for modifications:

- that it has not approved
- required as the result of a condition that existed before the accident or which isn't a result of the motor vehicle accident
- that haven't been approved by the owner or other authority
- where the house isn't suitable to be modified and you buy or rent it regardless.

The LSA will also not pay for:

- the cost of more than one report, for example a building inspection
- the cost of repairs or maintenance described in a report. For example strata, building or pest reports
- fees for strata/ bodies corporate, council or water rates
- building or constructing any pools, spas or aqua-therapy facilities
- home insurance
- loss of value to your home as a result of the modifications
- removal of modifications
- normal household items, for example furniture or white goods, that aren't related to your needs as a result of the motor vehicle accident.

Home and Vehicle Modifications

Vehicle modifications

The LSA will pay for necessary and reasonable costs of modification to a motor vehicle that will allow you to drive it or travel in it as a passenger. This includes modifications to your own vehicle, to a vehicle that you share with a spouse or family member or, in certain circumstances, a guardian's or a work vehicle. The LSA may pay for modifications to more than one vehicle.

The LSA will only pay for modifications it approves and that are commercially available and meet the current SA legislation.

In addition, the LSA will only pay for vehicle modifications where you have been assessed as being suitable to drive, where all suitable alternatives have been considered, and where the modifications are needed as a result of the motor vehicle accident and not any other medical conditions.

Vehicles that are modified are still owned by the vehicle owner and not by the LSA. The owner still has to pay for the ordinary running costs of the car, such as servicing, insurance and fuel.

The LSA will not buy a car outright for you.

What if my needs and circumstances change?

Your needs and circumstances will be reviewed regularly to ensure you are receiving the services you need. If your goals or needs change, speak to your Service Planner.

For more information contact the Lifetime Support Authority.