

## NSW Spinal Seating Services

### Eligibility

The Spinal Seating Services are offered to adult residents of NSW who have sustained a spinal cord injury as a result of trauma, or from a non-progressive disease process. Progressive conditions such as demyelinating and degenerative conditions of the spinal cord, as well as compression by metastatic lesions are not the province of the spinal service.

Seating services are offered through **Assistive Technology & Seating (AT&S)** and the **Prince of Wales Seating Service**. Seating services are provided in a variety of ways, including rural clinics and, preferably in partnership with the clients' local health care staff.

### Reasons for referral may include:

1. **A history of pressure issues or a current pressure area**
  - Where resolution may require substantial ongoing local therapy and or nursing support
  - Which is complex and/or non-healing and felt to be related to seating (typically wheelchair, cushions, commodes or vehicle seating arrangements)
  - Which is recurrent
  - Which are unrelated to seating, but felt to be compromised by seating protocols
  - Post plastic surgery
2. **Posture issues, where seating expertise in general is required.**  
-e.g. scoliosis, kyphosis, obliquity, instability, pain
3. **Wheelchair / mobility issues where:**
  - Clients fall or are at risk of falls from the chair
  - Clients have problems operating or controlling the chair, or safety issues arise
  - Seating or mobility equipment requires replacement
  - Ventilation equipment will need to be attached to a wheelchair
4. **Past clients with complex problems best managed by consultation with seating services.**

### Work excluded by State Spinal Seating Services

- Routine repairs and maintenance of wheelchairs
- Modifications to cars other than seating
- Recreational and leisure devices on wheelchairs or other items of equipment with no impact on the health status and related independence of the client
- Non-mobile seating without impact on the health status and related independence of the client

### CONTACT US

**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY & SEATING (AT&S) - Ph: 9887 5055 Fax: 9887 5048** provides services to:

- Adult clients in the Sydney Metropolitan area who have received treatment at the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at Royal North Shore Hospital or Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney, and who meet the eligibility criteria.
- Adult clients in rural areas (except in the Illawarra district - see below), including those with a medical linkage to Prince of Wales Hospital who are unable to travel to Sydney.

**PRINCE OF WALES SEATING SERVICE - Ph: 9382 5286 E: [rehabeng@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rehabeng@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au)** provides services to:

- Adult clients in the Sydney Metropolitan area who have received treatment at the Spinal Cord Injury Unit at Prince of Wales Hospital (or the former Prince Henry Hospital)
- Adult clients in rural parts of South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra Area Health zone.

Clients who are not linked any of the above spinal cord injury centres, Rural Spinal Outreach Program or Hunter Spinal Cord Injury Service should contact these centres to determine eligibility prior to a referral to the Seating Services. Please see to NSW State Spinal Referral Directory page:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/gmct/spinal/referral.asp>