

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE FlexEquip PROGRAM



There are changes to the FlexEquip program from 1 July 2016 which will affect members of Muscular Dystrophy NSW.

FlexEquip is an equipment service of the Motor Neurone Disease Association that was specifically developed to meet the short-term equipment needs of adults living with rapidly progressive neurological conditions. Since August 2013, FlexEquip had extended its service to include members of Multiple Sclerosis and Muscular Dystrophy NSW.

FlexEquip provided items of equipment for short term loan to clients for a period of 12 weeks or, if an Enable NSW application was approved for the item, the loan could be extended to 26 weeks.

Unfortunately, due to changes in funding, this service will no longer be provided to MS and MDNSW members. No new applications will be processed from 1 July 2016.

If you still have FlexEquip equipment on loan at this time, you will be able to continue to use that item of equipment until the agreed upon expiry date when FlexEquip staff will be in contact with you to arrange for the return of the equipment.

FlexEquip has announced that people diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis and other rapidly progressive neurological disease who live in NSW or ACT and are under 65 years and are NDIS participants will be able to access the full FlexEquip range of equipment from 1 July 2016 so long as FlexEquip is nominated and approved in their NDIS plan.

For more information about how these changes may affect you, contact FlexEquip on **02 8877 0999** or at www.flexequip.com.au or contact the MDNSW Client Services team.

goget NOW OFFERS A WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE CAR-SHARE VEHICLE!

The car-sharing service GoGet now has an exciting addition to its fleet—a wheelchair accessible vehicle. This first GoGet accessible vehicle is an eight-seater Kia Carnival with a hydraulic wheelchair rear entry, and is located in a dedicated parking spot at Royal North Shore hospital at St Leonards.

GoGet is a car share service that allows registered users to book and pick up share cars from varying locations across Sydney. This pilot program was launched in April this year and makes GoGet the first mainstream car share provider to offer a wheelchair accessible vehicle for their members. If the trial is successful, there are plans to roll out more accessible vehicles in other areas.

To book the accessible vehicle, you must first become a member of GoGet and get your GoGet smart card and then apply for a GoAccessible Plan. The member must either have a disability or be the primary carer of a person with a disability. There are no joining fees for the GoAccessible Plan but the costs of a booking for the accessible vehicle is \$8.35/hr + 0.40cents/km, or \$88 per day.

For more information, call GoGet on **1300 769 389** or www.goget.com.au/accessible-plan



Philip & Peter demonstrate the new accessible GoGet vehicle!

AT LAST...AN INCREASE IN THE TAXI SUBSIDY!

From 1 July 2016, the Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme (TTSS) maximum subsidy has been increased. This is great news for taxi customers with disability as the subsidy has remained unchanged since 1999 while the cost of travelling by cab has risen significantly over this time.

The maximum subsidy will now be increased from \$30 to \$60 per trip. When you use the new TTSS \$60 docket, you will continue to pay only half of the full taxi fare but now it will be up to a maximum of \$60 per trip.

If you are a current TTSS customer, you should have received a new book of the \$60 dockets in the mail. If you need to re-order a new book of \$60 dockets, it is the same process as before. You can use the green re-order form at the centre of your book of travel dockets or you can download the Reorder TTSS Travel Dockets form and send the completed form to the address provided.

There has also been an increase from 1 July in the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi driver incentive payment. This payment has been increased from \$7.70 to \$15 (ex GST) per ride and should help to improve taxi services for wheelchair users.

If you need further information on how the new TTSS \$60 maximum subsidy works, please call the TTSS information helpline: **1800 200 592** or email tss@transport.nsw.gov.au or go to www.transport.nsw.gov.au