



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR POWERED MOBILITY



IMAGINE

Do you want to get around easily at home or in your community? Are you looking for mobility options to access the places you want to go?

Do you want to be able to move about independently, quickly or safely?

Powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters are designed to be used by a range of people with impaired mobility. Mobility scooters are designed to be used outdoors for longer distances. Power drive wheelchairs can be used both indoors and outdoors, depending on the model.

Powered mobility devices can enable you to:

- Travel longer distances without walking
- Keep you stable, comfortable and properly positioned while moving about
- Conserve energy when a manual wheelchair is no longer working well for you



PowerDrive Wheelchair



SEEK

To find out more, you can:

Phone **LifeTec on 1300 543 383** to discuss options and suitability with a health professional

Visit a **LifeTec display centre** to view and trial a selection of products, and obtain professional advice in person

Speak to your Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist to discuss what you want to achieve with a powered wheelchair or scooter

Use the National Equipment Database at **www.ilcaustralia.org.au** for further information on powered mobility.



Mobility Scooter

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CHOOSE

What can I choose from?

There are many options available when it comes to choosing a powered wheelchair or scooter. Some key features to consider are as follows:

Control method PowerDrive wheelchairs are usually controlled with one hand using a joystick, but they can also be controlled using other types of body movements, e.g. head movements. Scooters are controlled using a tiller only.



Joystick



Tiller



Alternative
(e.g. head array)

PowerDrive wheelchair drive styles:

Front Wheel Drive The large “drive wheels” are towards the front of the frame. They can manage tight corners and obstacles. They have a medium turning circle and are fairly stable.

Mid Wheel Drive The large “drive wheels” are in the middle of the frame, usually with smaller wheels at the front and back. They have the smallest turning circle (often able to turn on the spot), and with 6 wheels on the ground they are very stable.

Rear Wheel Drive The large “drive wheels” are towards the back of the frame. This helps the chair to drive straight outdoors and manage rougher ground. They have a large turning circle and are less manoeuvrable.

All Terrain Some PowerDrive wheelchairs have four-wheel drive or caterpillar-style wheel options. They may also have large-diameter knobby tyres. These are designed to be used over rough, uneven surfaces but are not recommended for smaller spaces.



Front wheel drive



Mid wheel drive



Rear wheel drive



All terrain

Contact details

- ➔ www.lifetec.org.au
- ➔ **1300 LIFETEC** (1300 543 383)
- ➔ mail@lifetec.org.au

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Mobility scooter drive styles:

Three Wheel Three wheeled scooters have a smaller turning circle than four-wheel scooters, but may be unstable, particularly on uneven surfaces.

Four Wheel Four wheeled scooters tend to have more stability and are better for people who have difficulty with seated balance. The turning circle is larger so tighter corners can be more difficult to manage.



Three wheel



Four wheel

Seating functions Powered or manual functions are available to help with getting in and out, staying supported, or to enable movement like reaching or stretching out. Popular seating functions for wheelchairs include tilt-in-space, backrest recline, seat lift, leg rest elevation and standing. Scooters offer a rotating seat to make access easier.



Tilt-in-space



Backrest recline



Seat lift



Leg rest elevation



Standing



Rotating seat

Specialised Seating For powered wheelchairs there are many specialised options available for seating and positioning, from off-the-shelf cushions and backrests to fully customisable seating systems for postural support.

Transport Approval By default, wheelchairs and scooters are not designed to be used as a seat when travelling in a motor vehicle. If you want to stay in your seat, you must make sure that your device is crash-tested and will be secured to the vehicle in the correct way. It should also have a headrest and the backrest should reach shoulder height.

Registration Depending on which state of Australia you live in, you might need to register your PowerDrive wheelchair or scooter with your local transport department. All PowerDrive wheelchairs and scooters must be registered with the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads if you are using them on a public footpath or roadside area in Queensland. For more information on registration requirements in other states please contact your local transport department.

Additional Accessories There are many accessories you can add, including tray tables, sun canopies and storage bags.



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LIVE

AREA TO BE USED

- Can it be used in your home, accessible public spaces like shopping centres, on footpaths or off road?
- Do you need to go up ramps, kerbs or slopes?
- Will it fit through doorways, around corners or under desks and tables?
- Remember there is a max 10km/h in public spaces

PORTABILITY

- Can the parts be folded or dismantled?
- How much does the largest piece weigh?
- Will you need help to fold, dismantle or store it?

USEABILITY

- Is the chair easy to manage or drive? Which drive control method will you choose (e.g. joystick, tiller, chin control, switch)
- Is it comfortable and supportive?
- Does it provide enough suspension?
- Do you like the look and style?

CUSTOMISATION

- If you have more complex needs you may need to customise your mobility equipment
- Wheelchairs are more customisable than scooters
- Various sizes, seat functions and accessories can be chosen

DURABILITY

- Consider the durability of the device's suspension, motors, materials and fixings and tyres
- What is the load capacity of the chair or scooter?

TRANSFERS

- Is the wheelchair or scooter easy to get in and out of?
- Is the seat at the right height?
- Is there clearance for a hoist?

TRAINING

- Training and demonstrations are highly recommended
- Practice may be needed to develop your proficiency
- Read the user manuals

STORAGE

- Where will you keep it?
- How will you shelter it from rain and sun?
- Store equipment so that it is easy to get to when you need it

TRANSPORT

- Can it fit in your vehicle?
- Will you need any vehicle add-ons to safely transport it (lifter, ramp, or trailer)?
- If using public transport, does it meet Australian public transport standards? (max 750mm wide x 1300mm long x 1500mm high, 300kg)

BATTERY

- Type of battery – is it safe to take on an aeroplane?
- What is the estimated battery life?
- Batteries will drain faster when driving up slopes or in hot weather
- How will you charge the battery to keep it in shape?

MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES

- Your mobility equipment will require cleaning, servicing and repairs
- What is the expected life of product? Is a warranty available?
- Will your mobility needs change over time? Who will help you to review future options?

COST

- Cost can range from thousands to tens of thousands of dollars
- Scooters are generally cheaper than wheelchairs

Contact details

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