



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR KEYBOARDS & ALTERNATIVES



IMAGINE

Do you wish your keyboard was easier to use?

Do you want to write things for yourself rather than asking someone to do this for you?

Alternative keyboards, software and accessibility settings can help make this possible!

These alternative keyboard options can reduce fatigue and pain, make typing easier or faster, and assist with visual or physical impairments.



SEEK

To find out more, you can...

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

Schedule an assessment here:
<https://lifetec.org.au/our-services/referrals/>

Speak to your Occupational Therapist or Speech Therapist.

Use the National Equipment Database at www.ilcaustralia.org.au for further information on keyboards for computer access.



Alternative keyboards



Software options



Alternative access options



Accessories



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CHOOSE

What can I choose from?

There are a variety of options when it comes to keyboards for device access. The options will vary depending on how you choose to input your text. Here are some key features to consider when choosing keyboard options:

Alternative keyboards

Small keyboards are available for one-handed use, high-contrast ones for easier reading, ergonomic keyboards for hand and wrist injuries, braille keyboards, coloured keyboards for learning or vision– and many more.

Software

On-screen keyboards can be found on your computer, phone or tablet. You can choose from selection devices such as finger touch, a stylus, mouse or mouse alternative. Software options also offer features such as word prediction, accessible word processors and literacy software, keyboard shortcuts and macros.

Alternative access options

Instead of using a keyboard, you may choose a different method of input. Options include voice recognition (voice to text), gestures or symbol-based writing – and more.

Accessories

Key guards are available to help with accuracy. There are also a range of accessories such as high-contrast stickers, moisture protective covers, hand splints and styluses to help make device use easier and more efficient.



LIVE

LOOKS

- Different types of display are available
- Colour contrast
- Acceptability and appeal of the design

ACCESS METHODS

- Direct touch / stylus
- Indirect (e.g. with a mouse, voice or switch)
- Sensory features (tactile markers, colours, braille)

FUNCTIONS

- Wired (e.g. USB)
- Wireless (e.g. Bluetooth, Infra-red, Wi-Fi)
- Is it compatible with your device?

CUSTOMISATION

- Can you create new functions and shortcuts?
- Can you add accessories to make it easier to use?

FLEXIBILITY

- Where it can be used?
- How many functions and shortcuts can it store?
- Can the access methods change as your ability changes?

PORTABILITY

- How big or heavy is the device or keyboard? Can you pack it up or travel with it easily?
- Can you use it with different devices?

TRAINING

- Recommended for more complex alternatives (e.g. voice recognition and switch scanning)
- Practice may be needed to develop proficiency

SET UP

- Positioning and installation may be required
- Device settings may need to be tweaked and customised. Will you require any support?

MAINTENANCE

- What is the expected life of the product? Is a Warranty available?

DURABILITY

- Can you repair or replace it if it breaks?

COST

- Costs can range from \$0 to thousands of dollars

Contact details

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