

Custom Designed Aids Service

TADNSW is a not-for profit organisation which coordinates the work of volunteers to supply customised equipment, modified bicycles and recycled computers to people with disabilities.



TADNSW also provides information about adaptive technology to people with disabilities, their families and carers, and the disability and health sectors.

Over the years TADNSW's Custom Designed Aids Service (CDA) has developed unique experience in developing one-off customised solutions that allow people with disabilities to maximise their opportunities and enjoy their lives more fully and independently.

TADNSW makes or modifies equipment in situations where commercially accessible items cannot be obtained or are not suitable. The work is performed by skilled volunteers under the supervision of our professional staff, so costs to clients are minimised.

Our devices are used in all aspects of life, including personal care, mobility, seating and posture, daily living, work, education, computing and recreation.

How does the CDA service work?

We have three separate categories within the Custom Designed Aids Service, depending on the level of customisation required:

“Easy To Order” items (ETOs) use established designs developed in such a way that they can be customised using a short list of key dimensions. They include bath seats, access equipment, supportive seating, and standing frames.

“Ready To Go” items (RTGs) are devices that TADNSW has provided regularly over time to a fixed design. They address a range of needs, generally relating to young children of up to primary school age. These devices are easy to request as there is no custom sizing or variation involved.

Individual Solutions: Much of TADNSW's work involves creating individual solutions to solve specific problems or meet specific client needs. They are created for both children and adults and assist people in a range of areas, including mobility, access, personal care, daily living, work, education, computer use and recreational activities.

Individual solutions range from quite simple devices or modifications to more complex adaptive technology. Their common feature is that they generally improve the opportunities and/or independence of people with disabilities, as well as assisting their families and carers.



TADNSW will only create a device if a suitable solution is not commercially available. In cases where an item is not completely suitable, or requires importing, or the cost is prohibitive, we may consider an alternative solution.

Individual solutions often start out with a commercially accessible device that requires modification to suit the client. In other cases there may be nothing available at all, and we will design and construct a specific device from scratch.

Working Together

TAD staff work with the client, the client's therapist and/or the client's carers to analyse the problem and reach a safe and suitable solution.

Each project is allocated to a skilled volunteer, who then works with the client and support team to build the device. It is then checked again by staff before delivery to the client.

Freedom Wheels Modified Bicycles

The FREEDOM WHEELS® Modified Bike Service

modifies standard bicycles so that children with disabilities can ride them. This can give a child new opportunities for independence, inclusion and exercise. Bikes can also be modified for adults.



A range of modifications are available which can be combined to meet the individual support and stability needs of each child. These modifications may include:

- a wider seat
- stabiliser or “outrigger” wheels
- postural supports such as pelvic belts, back and head support plates, and hip and thoracic fins
- footcups
- gloves to assist with gripping the handlebars
- modified handlebars
- towbars

Each child is individually assessed by TAD therapists to ensure that the bike is fitted correctly.

Who does TADNSW help?



TADNSW helps anyone with a disability and their carers, including conditions associated with ageing.

There is no means test, and a referral is not always necessary.

Contact us for further information about lodging a project application with us.

Our volunteers

Volunteers are actively engaged in the delivery of all TADNSW's services. They make and modify the equipment supplied by TADNSW's Custom Designed Aids Service, under the supervision of a team of therapists, engineers and support staff.



CDA volunteers include professionals, tradespeople and hobbyists. They have a wide range of skills spanning engineering, woodwork, metalwork, plastics, electronics and information technology. To bring the necessary mix of skills required, our volunteers will often collaborate on a project.

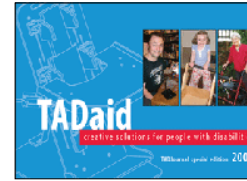
Volunteers donate their time and are reimbursed for the cost of materials, travel and out-of-pocket expenses. They enjoy the opportunity to contribute something to the community in a practical and direct way, and the companionship of like-minded people.



"Who else do you ask to do these things? I couldn't get these jobs done to fit me anywhere else. My needs could not be better served than they have been by TAD. Thank you."

Where can I find more information about CDA?

All of the information contained in this brochure can be found on our website or in a copy of our booklet, TADaid 2009.



Visit our website at www.tadnsw.org.au or give us a call on (02) 9912 3400 and choose option 2. Alternatively, you can send us an email to cda@tadnsw.org.au

You can also lodge your project application form through the website.

Contact us

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Independence through affordable solutions