

What is a prosthetist/orthotist?

Prosthetists and orthotists can assess whether you need:

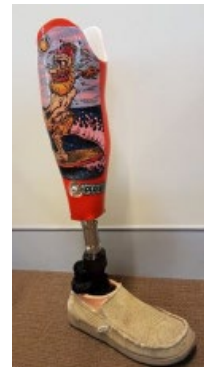
- prostheses (artificial limbs)
- orthoses (support devices, braces, splints), or
- orthopaedic footwear

We will work with you and the health professionals caring for you to:

- talk about your goals, and
- make a plan to help you achieve the best function, mobility and comfort.

We will make and fit the most appropriate device to meet your needs at home, work and in the community.

We will also give you information about how to use and care for your device.



Who can come to our service?

We can assess you if you live in the ACT or surrounding NSW and have a medical condition that requires a prosthesis, orthosis or medical grade footwear.

What types of equipment do prosthetists/orthotists prescribe?

Prosthetists/orthotists can fit a range of devices, some of which include:

- pre-made or custom orthoses (feet, leg, back and arm)
- custom or medical grade footwear
- prostheses (arm and leg)
- specialised prosthetic and orthotic devices for sports, recreation and work.



Funding

Our services are funded in different ways, depending on your circumstances. Funding may be fully or partly provided by:

- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- ACT Artificial Limb Scheme (ACTALS)
- Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA)

- compensation (Work / Accident)
- ACT Equipment Scheme (ACTES)
- Enable NSW
- private health insurance
- the person using our service.

Your prosthetist/orthotist will work with you to work out what funding support may be available to you.



Your first visit

At your first appointment, the prosthetist/orthotist will assess your needs, talk about your goals and work with you to develop a treatment plan.

If you need a cast taken as part of your treatment plan, it may be done on the same day or another appointment may be made.

Your prosthetist/orthotist will arrange appointments with you for follow-up, device fitting, adjustment and review.

Your prosthetist/orthotist will start any funding documentation, report writing, and coordination needed with other health professionals caring for you.

What to bring on the day

- Any devices you have been prescribed before or are currently using.
- Any relevant past medical history, scans, x-rays or medical reports if you have them.
- One or two pairs of shoes that you usually wear.
- Your current NDIS plan if you have one or funding information/documents related to your treatment.

What to expect from your device?

Prosthetists/orthotists aim to give you devices to meet your needs. Some devices are complex and need trials and continuing adjustments. We will do our best to make sure the fit and function of your device is right for you.

It may have taken years for your problem to develop. You may have had symptoms for some time. Your new device will not change a problem overnight and in some cases may not stop all of your pain. It is important to remember this and be realistic about your expectations.

Your device may take time to 'wear in'. Your prosthetist/orthotist will give you wearing-in instructions.

How do I make an appointment?



Contact Central Health Intake (CHI) on (02) 5124 9977 between 8:30am and 4:30pm Monday to Friday.

Clinic location: 37 Kingsmill St, Kambah ACT

Acknowledgement of Country



Canberra Health Services acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Ngunnawal people. Canberra Health Services respects their continuing culture and connections to the land and the unique contributions they make to the life of this area. Canberra Health Services also acknowledges and welcomes Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples who are part of the community we serve.



Accessibility (how to get this information in other ways)



in larger print



or hear it in audio

please telephone (02) 5124 0000.



If you need translating and interpreting service – please telephone 131 450.

National Relay Service phone 133 677 then ask for 133 427.

For further accessibility information, visit: www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility

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