In Western Australia, the Community Aids and Equipment Program (CAEP) assists eligible individuals with a permanent and long term disability through the provision of loan equipment, including communication devices.

Individuals with complex communication needs have difficulty communicating through speech. A communication device is an electronic tool with voice output that may help you communicate with others.

Selecting a communication device

As there are many communication devices available, choosing the right device is important.

Your speech pathologist will work with you and the key people in your life to determine what features you need from a communication device. The assessment and trial process can take time. It is important to look at a range of communication devices.

Trialling a device will allow you to learn how the device works. The trial will also let you and your speech pathologist determine if anything needs to be modified. That’s why it is important to work closely with your speech pathologist before, during and after the trial.

Following a successful trial of your device, your speech pathologist will write a report to the Disability Services Commission so you can access CAEP funding. CAEP will notify them if funding is approved.

When you have received your device, your CAEP provider will continue ongoing training with you. It’s best to speak to your CAEP provider about how much support is available.
Refurbished devices

Refurbished devices are available and may be provided if they meet your needs. All second-hand devices have been refurbished and are in full working order.

What will CAEP funding cover?

If you are CAEP eligible, the cost of the communication device is covered. This includes trialling the device, software and protective coverings, and any repairs that might be needed whilst the device is in your care. You may be asked to insure the device while it is being trialled. Once funded, the equipment is on loan from CAEP until it is no longer required.

Returning unused devices

If you are no longer using your communication device, please return it to your CAEP provider so that it can be available for re-issue.

Where can I go for more information?

For more information about who is eligible for CAEP contact the Disability Services Commission:
- Website: www.disability.wa.gov.au
- Phone: 9426 9200

For more information about trialling communication devices contact your CAEP provider or the Independent Living Centre:
- Website: www.ilc.com.au
- Phone: 9381 0600