



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Definitions:

Fitness equipment: refers to static sports equipment that would usually be located within a gymnasium or fitness centre, including, but not limited to, treadmills, rowing machines, free-weights and weight machines, exercise bikes and trampolines.

Rationale:

Cystic Fibrosis Tasmania (CFT) recognises the health benefits of an active lifestyle and exercise for people with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) and, over the years CFT has provided financial assistance to members with CF to partially defray the cost of gym membership.

CFT recognises that some people with CF may not be able to attend a gym/fitness centre, because their health status prevents them from doing so; because of concerns about hygiene and infection control in a shared facility; because of professional or family commitments; or because of their geographical isolation from suitable facilities.

CF can also limit people's capacity to engage in paid employment, while at the same time imposing additional cost of living pressures, because of the dietary requirements associated with CF and higher medical expenses. When faced with competing priorities, this can see people with CF not engage in fitness due to the associated costs.

Through providing financial assistance to people with CF towards the purchase of gym and/or fitness equipment for home use, CF Tasmania seeks to mitigate, at least to some extent, the possibility that people with CF will not engage in physical exercise for any of the reasons outlined above.

Policy:

CFT will provide assistance to members with CF towards the purchase of fitness equipment to be used within their own home.

The following eligibility criteria will apply to the provision of financial assistance under this policy:

1. The member applying for financial assistance must be a current financial member (or life member) of CFT and have been a member for at least two years, or must have joined CFT for a minimum of two years, to be eligible for assistance under this policy and be living with CF
2. Members who are over 18 years of age will need to hold a current CFT membership in their own right, or join for a minimum of 2 years to be eligible for assistance.
3. Funds will not be provided to non-CFT members.
4. Applications for financial assistance are to be made on the "Financial Assistance for Fitness Equipment" application form
5. Assistance will not be provided for items purchased prior to approval of the application being provided by CFT.
6. Assistance will not be provided for members who have received assistance from CFT towards the cost of gym or fitness club membership at any time within the preceding 12 months.
7. Financial assistance under this policy is limited to 50% of the cost of the nominated fitness equipment, up to \$500 per eligible member.
8. If a significant change in a member's health occurs, CFT on the advice of an allied health professional, will consider an additional payment of not more than \$500 to purchase different fitness equipment than ones already funded under this program by CFT.
9. Members who purchase personal fitness equipment with financial assistance from CFT under this policy will not be eligible to receive financial assistance towards the cost of gym or fitness club memberships for a period of 3 years from the date on which the contribution towards the cost of the personal fitness equipment by CFT was made.
10. Funds under this policy are only available to eligible CFT members residing in Tasmania.
11. CFT will not pay any delivery or set up costs for the requested equipment.
12. Payment will only be made by CFT on receipt of a copy of a tax invoice for the item of fitness equipment purchased by the member.

To access this funding members are required to :-

- a. Complete a "Financial Assistance for Fitness Equipment" Application Form and submit it to CFT along with a copy of a quote for the equipment;
- b. Attach to the application evidence a statement from clinic staff about the suitability of the gym equipment for which a financial contribution is being requested;
- c. Members are not to purchase equipment until such time as approval of the application has been provided by CFT in writing (by mail or email).
- d. Once approval has been received the member must purchase the item within thirty (30) days and provide a copy of the tax invoice to CFT.
- e. Funds will be provided to the member within thirty (30) days of receipt of the tax invoice.
- f. In the event of financial hardship CFT will consider, on a case by case basis, a request for different payment arrangements to those outlined above.

Funds will be provided by electronic transfer to an account with a bank, credit union or other financial institution nominated in the application form.

Level of Assistance:

CFT will provide 50% of the cost of the nominated fitness equipment up to \$500 per member.;

The total amount available for members under the policy will be determined by the Board on an annual basis and funding will be provided in the order in which the applications are received. Once this cap has been reached in a financial year unsuccessful members will need to apply in the following financial year. However, the Board has the discretion to consider additional applications under exceptional circumstances.

Approval of funds:

The payment of financial assistance to CFT members under this policy may be approved by CFT's Executive Officer.

In the absence of the Executive Officer, approval may be given by the CFT President, Vice President or Treasurer.

Date of policy approval by CFT Board: 26 February 2014

Date for review: 26 February 2016

