

Applying for Lifetime Participation

What is lifetime participation?

You were accepted into the Lifetime Care and Support Scheme as an 'interim participant' for two years. If you're nearing the end of your two-year interim period, you must submit an application for 'lifetime participation' so the Lifetime Care and Support Scheme can see if you're eligible to remain in the Scheme for the rest of your life.

The Scheme cannot pay for treatment, rehabilitation and care beyond your interim participation end date unless you become a lifetime participant.

When and how do I apply?

The application process generally begins several months before the end of your two-year interim period. Your Coordinator will tell you when it needs to begin.

- To apply for lifetime participation:
- You (or someone on your behalf) must complete the appropriate Lifetime Application Form for your injury
- Your treating specialist must complete a medical certificate.

Your Coordinator will send you a copy of the Lifetime Application Form and can advise on how to complete it. Your treating specialist will usually complete the medical certificate at one of your review appointments so you can avoid an extra visit. Your Coordinator will send a copy of the form to the specialist, who will be asked to certify that you meet the injury eligibility criteria for lifetime participation, that the injuries were caused by the motor vehicle accident, and that your injuries are permanent.

Extra assessments for brain injuries, burns and spinal cord injuries

Brain injury and burns: If you have a brain injury or burns, the application also involves an assessment using the FIM™ instrument. This will be conducted by an approved assessor, who will certify how much assistance you need with day-to-day tasks like eating, dressing, grooming, walking and communicating. You may be asked to demonstrate functional activities, and your family/friends and service providers may be asked to provide information to assist with the assessment. FIM scores may determine whether you're eligible (or not) to continue in the Scheme. The FIM assessment needs to happen before completion of the medical certificate (no more than two months before).

Spinal cord injury: If you have a spinal cord injury, application also involves completing an 'ASIA' score. This is completed by your treating specialist. The specialist will need to certify that you have permanent neurological impairment. The ASIA score needs to happen before completion of the medical certificate (no more than two months before).

Who decides if I'm eligible for lifetime participation?

The Scheme will review your Lifetime Application Form, medical certificate and assessments (FIM or ASIA). It will then assess if you're eligible according to the criteria in the Lifetime Care and Support Guidelines (available on the website, www.act.gov.au/LTCSS).

The Scheme will inform you in writing of its decision about your eligibility for lifetime participation.

What happens if I'm eligible?

If you're accepted into the Scheme as a lifetime participant, the Scheme will pay for your reasonable and necessary motor accident injury-related treatment, rehabilitation and care for the rest of your life.

The process for requesting and receiving services will remain the same as for when you were an interim participant.

What happens if I'm not eligible?

If you have an insurance claim (for example, a compulsory third party or workers compensation claim), you may be eligible to have your ongoing treatment, rehabilitation and care costs paid for by the insurer.

If you have a private health insurance policy with a suitable level of cover, your treatment, rehabilitation and care may be paid for by the private health fund.

Alternatively, government-funded health services may be available. You're Case Manager and Coordinator will help with your transition to alternate services, where possible, before the end of your two-year interim period.

What if I disagree with the decision?

If you disagree with the Scheme's decision about your eligibility for lifetime participation, you can dispute the decision. For more information contact the LTCS Commissioner on 13 22 81.