

Who is TADSA?

Technical Aid to the Disabled SA Inc (TADSA) has been supplying custom designed and made equipment to people with disabilities in South Australia for over 30 years. By using the skills, expertise and facilities of our volunteer Technical Members, we are able to help our clients have a better quality of life by supplying devices that are not readily available from commercial sources.

Clients can come to us directly with their need – no referral is necessary. Alternatively, they can ask their health professionals or support organisations to contact us on their behalf. Because the work on developing and supplying the solution to their needs is done principally by volunteers, the final cost is usually quite low.

For more information, please visit our website at www.tadsa.org.au or contact the TADSA office.



TADSA
(Technical Aid to the Disabled SA Inc)
ABN 90 797 478 904

PO Box 540 Modbury SA 5092
Telephone: (08) 8261 2922
Statewide: 1300 663 243
Facsimile: (08) 8369 1051
31 Blacks Road Gilles Plains 5086
email: admin@tadsa.org.au



A family affair



Alex gets fitted for his bike.



Making sure everything fits



Jye rides everyday



setting up the bike



our volunteers put the bikes together



What is FREEDOM WHEELS®?

The FREEDOM WHEELS customised bike program modifies standard push bikes to give a new kind of independence to children with disabilities by allowing them to ride a bike for the first time.

Originally developed by a highly skilled and innovative team of therapists, engineers and volunteers at TADNSW, children with disabilities can now enjoy mobility and a form of recreation previously unavailable to them.

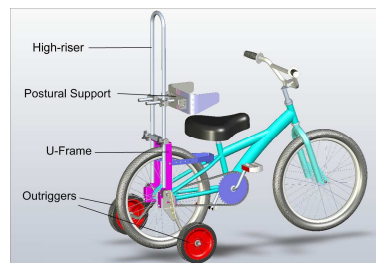
FREEDOM WHEELS is a joint undertaking between TADNSW and AMWAY™ to expand the modified bike program. The program is now available in South Australia through Technical Aid to the Disabled SA (TADSA).

Amway of Australia provides generous ongoing support for the FREEDOM WHEELS program, through the One by One Foundation.

What's a bike clinic? - FREEDOM WHEELS modify standard push bikes to the individual needs of the client. An assessment process is needed to ensure that the client receives a bike that is suited to the client's age, height, weight, type of disability and physical and cognitive abilities. Input from the carers and therapists (or health care professionals) form an important part of the assessment process.

This assessment process occurs during bike clinics which are conducted regularly by TADSA at various locations round Adelaide. Clinics in selected regional centres of South Australia will be arranged in the future. Bikes cannot be supplied without attendance at a clinic.

When and where are bike clinics held? - Clinics are held in South Australia as required. For specific dates and locations, please visit our website www.tadsa.org.au and click on the Freedom Wheels link. Alternatively, you can ring the TADSA office using the numbers that are on the outside back cover of this booklet and talk to our Freedom Wheels co-ordinator.



Prototype of the new bike



What modifications are available?

Standard push bikes are not designed to provide the support needed by children with disabilities. Commercially available outriggers are designed to be used for the short term and upper body supports are only available through organisations such as TADSA.

FREEDOM WHEELS now offers a wide range of modifications that are designed to stay on the bike permanently but still allows for easy storage and transport. Your child may not need all the modifications that are available.

Outriggers

Are an advanced set of training wheels which provide lateral stability to the bike. These are wider and stronger than standard training wheels yet more flexible, allowing the client to have a smoother ride, lean into corners and learn to develop normal riding patterns without having to focus on balancing the bike.



The outriggers are designed to be left on the bike permanently yet are easily removable for storage or transport by the removal of just two pins.

Postural supports

A wide range of postural supports are available.

Pelvic belts provide increased stability to the pelvis whilst riding.

Back and head support plates provide assistance in maintaining neutral postures.

Hip and thoracic fins further increase pelvic and trunk stability whilst seated and whilst riding. Belts can be attached to the fins for additional stability.

All supports assist the rider by promoting functional riding postures and providing levels of energy conservation, making riding easier and more enjoyable.

Footcups - Foot supports are placed on the pedals of the bike. These ensure correct positioning of the foot on the pedal and prevent the rider's foot from falling off the pedal. The rider can then ride with more ease and efficiency.

Hand mitts - Hand supports fashioned from wetsuit material position the rider's hands on the hand grips of the handlebar. These are ideal for riders with poor upper limb and hand control and strength, as well as poor concentration.

Special handlebars

We can custom build handlebars that bring the grips higher and closer to the rider. The width of the handlebars can also be customized to ensure correct hand and arm position.

Placing the handlebars in an ideal position for the rider promotes ideal riding posture and improves their ability to hold handlebars and steer.

Can I bring my own bike?

All the components used in the FREEDOM WHEELS Program are engineered and manufactured to close tolerances to ensure a safe and comfortable ride for our clients. These parts are designed to fit on a specific bike frame and will not mount properly on any other frame. Bike frames are supplied through Freedom Wheels at lower than recommended retail prices.

Am I eligible?

FREEDOM WHEELS is available to any child with a disability. Clients do not need to undergo a means test. Bikes can be modified for adults through TADSA's normal service.



Do I need a referral?

In instances where a therapist is involved with a client's care, the therapist should be consulted to determine whether bicycle riding is a suitable activity. Therapists are encouraged to attend the appointments with their clients. In instances where a therapist is not involved in a client's care TADSA can arrange for one to advise about the suitability of bike riding.

How much does it cost?

TADNSW and their corporate partners, Amway of Australia, through the One by One Trust, fund the cost of staff and further research and development. Clients are asked to reimburse the cost of the bikes and other parts specified by the assessment team. Please refer to our Price Guide for more details.

How long before I get the bike?

The components available through the Freedom Wheels program allow our volunteers to customise each bike to the needs of the client. If the parts needed for a client's bike are in stock, delivery of the bikes can be expected within four weeks.

There may, however, be rare instances where the client needs a component that is not in stock or a major modification needs to be done to stock components. Your assessment team will discuss deliver times with you in this instance.

What if I can't afford to pay the fees?

In South Australia, the bikes will be supplied from TADNSW, who will also invoice the client. You have the option of making either 4 or 6 equal monthly payments through your credit card.

How do I book an appointment?

Before placing a bike application you should consider the following questions:

- Does your therapist recommend riding a bike as a suitable activity?
- Do you have somewhere safe to ride a bike?
- Do you have somewhere to store the bike?
- Who will supervise the bike riding?

When you have decided that a FREEDOM WHEELS Bike is right for your child, contact the TADSA office for an application form.

