Equity of compression garment funding schemes across Australian States and Territories

Developed by Equity Committee
Approved by the ALA Board – February 2019

Position

The Australasian Lymphology Association (ALA) continues to endorse the use of compression garments as an essential treatment modality for the management of lymphoedema as written in the ALA Position Statement on Compression Garments (2012).

At present, there is significant variation between compression garment funding schemes across the States and Territories within Australia. This results in inequity between these funding schemes (or absence of any scheme) in the eligibility of those able to access the funding schemes. This variation also exists in the subsidy (where provided) that is received, along with the type and number of compression garments that an individual can be supplied with each calendar year.

The ALA supports equitable funding of compression garments between states and territories so that no Australian is disadvantaged in their lymphoedema management simply due to their postcode.

The ALA also supports government assistance and subsidisation of compression garments based on an individual’s diagnosis and needs, as assessed and prescribed by a lymphoedema practitioner.

The ALA supports individuals receiving an adequate number of garments for each affected body part, as required over a calendar year.

The ALA supports individuals having access to the appropriate prescribed garment type to effectively manage their lymphoedema swelling over a calendar year.