

Standard mattresses information sheet

What the TAC can pay for

In exceptional circumstances the TAC can pay a contribution towards the cost of a new standard non-medical mattress if it can be determined that a new mattress will help your health or return to work. Standard non-medical mattresses are normal household items which eventually require replacement, regardless of your transport accident injuries.

What the TAC can't pay for

As there is currently no conclusive medical evidence to support that sleeping on a particular type of standard mattress is effective for pain management, the TAC can't pay for a new mattress to manage pain.

How the TAC works out how much to pay

The TAC will work out how much to pay for a new mattress based on clinical need, individual circumstances and whether the TAC has previously bought a standard non-medical mattress for you.

If your mattress is of an age or condition that it would require replacing regardless of your accident injuries, then it is expected that you will pay for the full cost of your new mattress.

If you require a mattress with special attributes because of your injuries, then the TAC can pay the difference in cost between the new mattress you need and the cost of replacing your old mattress. For example, if the new mattress costs \$1,900 and the cost to replace your old mattress is \$1,500, then the TAC will pay the difference of \$400 towards the new mattress.

The amounts the TAC can pay

King Size Mattress	The TAC can pay up to \$2799* or a pro-rata percentage of this figure based on the age of your existing mattress
Queen Size Mattress	The TAC can pay up to \$2099* or a pro-rata percentage of this figure based on the age of your existing mattress
Double Size Mattress	The TAC can pay up to \$1899* or a pro-rata percentage of this figure based on the age of your existing mattress
Single Size Mattress	The TAC can pay up to \$1299* or a pro-rata percentage of this figure based on the age of your existing mattress

* This amount is based on the recommended retail prices of mattresses endorsed by the Orthopaedic Advisory Board.

If you need a standard non-medical mattress that costs more than the TAC can pay, you will need to pay the difference. For example, if you have a fairly new king size mattress but need to buy a new one because of your accident injuries, the TAC can pay up to \$2,799 for your new mattress. If the mattress you want to buy costs \$4,000, you will need to pay the difference of \$1201.



1300 654 329



www.tac.vic.gov.au



info@tac.vic.gov.au



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What you need to do

- Contact your claims manager who will send you the TAC Client Mattress Questionnaire
- Fill in and send the TAC Client Mattress Questionnaire to your claims manager for consideration
- You are encouraged to trial several standard mattresses from any reputable retail store before deciding which mattress best meets your accident injury needs
- Your claims manager can order the mattress for you and arrange for delivery
- Alternatively, you can purchase the mattress yourself and seek reimbursement, up to the amounts listed on this information sheet, once you have received approval from your claims manager.

Further information

For further information on mattresses, please contact the TAC on 1300 654 329.

The TAC Equipment Policy is available by searching for 'equipment' on our website www.tac.vic.gov.au



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