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## Press for Help Initiative - Application for Personal Mobile Alarm

This form is to be completed by anyone wishing to apply for a Personal Mobile Alarm via the Press for Help initiative. This initiative aims to provide affordable, assistive technology to seniors in the Cumberland area, to increase their confidence, safety and security both at home and in the community. Please complete all questions on this form and then send your form to Council via post or email. Details below:

**Post:** PO Box 42, Merrylands 2160 – Attn: Nadine El-Hassan (Access and Inclusion Officer)

**Email:** [aged.disability@cumberland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aged.disability@cumberland.nsw.gov.au)

### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a Personal Mobile Alarm via the Press for Help initiative, you must:

(please tick the points relevant to you).

- Be aged over 65
- Live in the Cumberland Local Government Area
- Experience injury, illness or disability that may hinder your full participation in the community.
- Be in receipt of a pension.
- Not have any assets or family assistance that could reasonably be expected to resolve your inability to privately purchase a personal mobile alarm.
- You live alone OR are alone for most of the day or evening OR live with a person who would be unable to get to the phone in an emergency or is unable to use the phone.
- You have had at least one fall that needed medical attention in the past 12 months, or are at risk of falls.
- Experience a major medical or chronic condition that puts you at risk of medical emergencies or has some ongoing effect on your health or wellbeing. For example, falls, seizures, dementia etc.
- Live in Cumberland and be able to provide evidence of this.
- Be able to pay an upfront deposit of \$100 (to be returned to you if you no longer need the alarm and choose to return it to Council with all accessories in good condition).
- Complete the medical and independent living skills assessment section of this form with a GP, caseworker or other health professional.



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**Please note**, you will only be eligible for a personal mobile alarm if you meet the above criteria. If you are eligible for NDIS funding or are a Gold Card member with the Department of Veteran affairs, you are not eligible for the Press for Help initiative. Priority will be given to individuals who are identified as being most at risk.

## Assessment and Allocation

Cumberland Council has a limited amount of personal mobile alarms available. All applications received are assessed for eligibility and applicants are notified in writing of their eligibility. If there are no alarm units available, you will be added to a waiting list.

The allocation of available alarm units will be at Council's discretion. Priority will be given to those who are identified as most at risk of isolation or of falls both in the home and out in the community.

## About You (applicants details)

**First Name**

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**Surname**

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**Address**

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**Contact number**

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**Date of birth**

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**Country of Birth**

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**Do you require an interpreter or translated information? If so, please state which language is required.**

Yes

No

Language required:

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**What has prevented you from purchasing a personal mobile alarm yourself?**

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**What is your current income? (Please attach written proof with your application).**

Type of income (pension): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount per fortnight: \_\_\_\_\_

**What is your current housing?**

- Own home
- Private rental
- Public housing
- With family or friends
- Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### Medical and Independent Living Skills Assessment

This section is to be completed with the client's regular General Practitioner, caseworker or other health/support professional.

#### **Professional's details**

**Name:**

**Business/Organisation:**

**Address:**

**Contact number:**

**How long has the applicant been your patient, client or customer?**

- One off consultation only
- Weeks
- Months
- Years



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**Please provide details of the patient's medical condition or attach a printed patient summary if preferred:**

Has your patient had a serious fall in the past 6 months? Yes / No

Has your patient ever been hospitalised due to a fall? Yes / No

Has your patient ever been hospitalised due to a situation where they experience a health issue and were unable to reach someone for help? Yes / No

Does your patient have dementia? Yes / No

If so, is your patient at risk of wandering? Yes / No

Does your patient have epilepsy or any other condition that may cause seizures? Yes / No

Does your patient have low vision that may increase their risk of falls? Yes / No

**Comments/any other medical conditions**



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**Are there any other medical equipment/items the applicant is required to pay for?**

- No
  - Yes, please specify:
- 

**Do you believe the applicant would benefit from a personal mobile alarm?**

- Yes
- No

**If yes, please state why:**

**Professionals Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicants Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



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## Applicant Questionnaire

**Did you know you could access subsidised services to help you stay independent and living at home for longer?**

- Yes
- No

**Have you heard of My Aged Care?**

- Yes
- No

**Do you understand what My Aged Care is and how it works?**

- Yes
- No

**Are you registered with My Aged Care?**

- Yes
- No

**If you are, are you accessing any services?**

- No
  - Yes (please specify)
- 

**Did you know Cumberland Council offers subsidised services through My Aged Care for people aged over 65?**

- Yes
- No



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## What if you're ineligible?

Below are some suggestions for you if you are ineligible for the Press for Help initiative.

- Share payment for a similar product between family members, or make the technology a birthday or Christmas gift. You can find a range of personal mobile alarm providers in the yellow pages or on the internet.
- Encourage family or friends to make a daily phone call or visit.
- Speak to trusted neighbours, family and friends about working out a way to let each other know you're okay. Look out for things like unopened blinds if they're usually opened or uncollected mail.
- If you are an NDIS participant, you can check if you can purchase a personal mobile alarm using your funding. Contact the NDIS on 1800 800 110.
- If you are a Gold Card member with the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA), you can apply for a subsidised personal mobile alarm. Contact the DVA on 133 254.

There are also community organisations that can help you in time of need. Some of these organisations include:

- [NSW Police Next of Kin program](#)

You can register your details through the NSW Police's Next of Kin program, your contact details are then held by your local police station. You can also have on the register your doctor, dentist or any other medical contacts that could help you in an emergency. This information can assist the emergency services to contact a relative or other contact to inform them of your situation. The NSW Police will give you a registered number along with a sticker and a key ring. For more information or to register for this free service, contact your local police station and speak to the Crime Prevention Officer.

- [Australian Red Cross Telecross Service](#)

Red Cross can provide you with a daily telephone call to check on your wellbeing through a service known as Telecross. This provides peace of mind if you are at risk of an accident or illness that may go unnoticed, such as falling and being unable to call for help. The volunteer will check to see that you are well and provide a friendly voice to wake up to each morning. For more information you can call Red Cross on 1300 885 698.