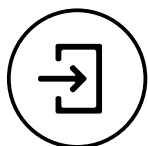# AFFORDABLE ACCESS
FACT SHEET

What's Affordable Access?

This fact sheet is a summary of the Affordable Access website resource, created to help you make educated choices on options priced up to $250. You'll find useful information on the specific accessibility features that are in popular devices such as tablets, smartphones, desktop computers, TV media players and telco plans that provide the best deals for the average user who's on a tight budget.

To help you find what you are after quickly, the site is divided into four main categories:
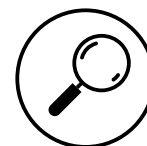
What's accessible? **What's affordable?** **What's suitable?** **What's possible?**

What's accessible?

Popular computers, smartphones and tablets have accessibility features including:

- **Screen reader:** A text-to-speech application that reads out computer and internet-related information to assist people who are blind or vision impaired.

- **Screen magnifier:** A magnification tool for enlarging screen content.

- **Themes:** High-contrast themes allow people with vision impairments to change the colors to a more comfortable setting (such as white-on-black), and increase the size of mouse pointers and text.

- **On-screen keyboard:** Enables people with mobility impairments to 'type' by using a pointing device to select letters and words on the screen.

- **On-screen alerts:** Visual messages can appear in place of audible sounds to help people who are Deaf or hearing impaired.

Operating systems with these features include latest versions of Google Android found on most budget smartphones and tablets, and Microsoft Windows found on most desktops and some budget tablets.

What's affordable?

Products that are accessible and priced under $250 include:

- **Android smartphones and tablets:** often priced under $100 for tablets and around $200 for a good quality smartphone. Just be sure that they run Android version 4.4 or later to maximise accessibility features.

- **Windows tablets:** priced around $200, generally run Windows 10 or can be upgraded for free. Windows tablets also have the benefit of being used like a desktop if a mouse and keyboard are connected.

- **Windows mini-PCs:** for around $150 you can buy a 'TV box' or 'stick' computer that works as a full Windows desktop computer.

- **Google Chromecast:** for $50, stream accessible videos or make the screen on an Android device easier to see by wirelessly sending the information to a big TV.

- **Raspberry Pi:** for the tech-savvy you can buy this $50 credit-card-sized computer and run a full desktop Linux operating system.

What's the most suitable product for me?

Different disability groups often favour different products based on the benefits they can provide.

Seniors tend to favour devices that help them stay in touch with their children and grandchildren. This may include the familiarity of a Windows desktop which also allows the installation of additional assistive technology software and an Android smartphone that contains the $12 BIG Launcher app to simplify the interface into six large high-contrast buttons.

Parents and carers who support a child tend to favour an Android tablet as it can provide entertainment by using free apps such as YouTube and ABC iView and is also compatible with a wide variety of games and educational apps.

Students are very budget-conscious and look for the best devices to help with study and keeping in touch with friends via social media. As a result, students tend to favour an Android smartphone with free social media apps and a lightweight tablet for taking notes. Tech-savvy students also like the Raspberry Pi due to its affordability and ability to install a full productivity-based Linux operating system for free.

Working people on a budget tend to favour a Windows tablet to ensure they can use productivity software on the go, and an Android smartphone to keep up with phone calls and messages.

What's possible?

For most of us, the accessibility journey ends after we've bought a product, enabled the accessibility features, and then started using it. However, for tech-savvy users, there are additional opportunities available to squeeze the maximum accessibility support out of a device at the lowest possible cost.

This section is designed for people who have significant technical knowledge and are prepared to take a few risks to achieve greater accessibility rewards.

Where can I find out more?

Useful information about product options, shopping guides and where to buy them can be found on the Affordable Access website.