

Alternative Access Options For Computers

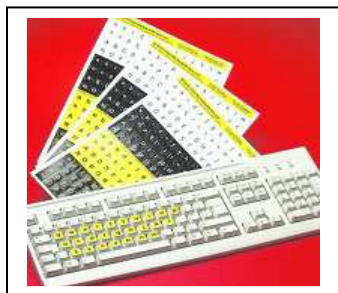
People may find operating a computer difficult for many different reasons. This information sheet is designed to provide an overview of the range of strategies and equipment that can be useful in assisting people who have difficulties accessing a computer.



KEYBOARD OPTIONS

Keyboards with enlarged key areas may be beneficial for people who have difficulty in using and/or seeing the keys on a standard keyboard.

Larger keys do mean further to reach for each keystroke, and may increase fatigue, which needs to be considered.



Reduced size keyboards may be useful for people who are one-handed typists or who may have difficulty reaching around the larger standard keyboard display. They have reduced spaces between the keys and reduced number of keys which may limit distractions for some people.

Programmable Keyboards can be used alongside your regular keyboard and can be assigned a series of functions. (i.e. control, alt, delete) or as a paragraph of text to any chosen key.

Special software is required to create the customised overlays and send them to the keyboard.

Ergonomic Keyboards may be useful for people who experience pain/discomfort when using a standard keyboard. Adjustable models are available. This can assist with reducing key-strikes for repetitive keyboard tasks.

On-screen keyboards may be useful for people who are not able to access a keyboard. Keyboard selections can be made using a mouse type device or switch and scanning methods.

Keyboard Accessories are available for both standard and alternative keyboards and these include:

- A variety of keyboard stickers that can be useful for enhancing the visual contrast of the keyboard
- Key-guards that may be beneficial for people who experience difficulty in accurately targeting keys. Key-guards can also be custom made.
- A moulded protective cover can also be helpful to protect the keyboard from liquids.

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

Telephone, fax or e-mail your enquiry to obtain further information from one of the therapists about products. Alternatively, you can make an appointment to trial the equipment at our display centres or through our outreach service. Please phone LifeTec Queensland for further details.

Last Updated: March 2009

LifeTec Queensland

BRISBANE
Level One, Reading Newmarket
Cnr Newmarket & Enoggera Roads
(PO Box 3241), Newmarket Qld 4051
Phone: 07 3552 9000 or 1300 885 886
Facsimile: 07 3552 9088

Email: mail@lifetec.org.au
www.lifetec.org.au
Independent Living Centre
Association of Queensland
Incorporated trading as LifeTec
Queensland ABN 25 773 960 273

TOWNSVILLE
Shop G-3A, Domain Central
103 Duckworth Street
(PO Box 8280), Garbutt, Townsville Qld 4814
Phone: 07 4759 5600
Facsimile: 07 4759 5688

