



Smoke Alarm Subsidy Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Smoke Alarm Subsidy Initiative?

A. The Smoke Alarm Subsidy is a scheme supported by the Victorian State Government that assists people who are profoundly deaf to acquire a visual and vibrating smoke alarm at a reduced cost of \$50

Q. What is the normal cost of a visual smoke alarm?

A. Normally, the Bellman and Symfon smoke alarm with a visual and vibrating alerter cost around \$450 each.

Q. Why do I need a smoke alarm?

A. When you're asleep you lose your sense of smell. A smoke alarm is your electronic nose. It will alert you if there is smoke from a fire. A small fire can grow to involve an entire room in two or three minutes. A smoke alarm provides early warning and time to escape. Smoke alarms are compulsory in every home. It is the legal responsibility of all owners and landlords to install working smoke alarms.

Q. What do I need to do to receive a smoke alarm?

A. You need to make sure you are eligible for an alarm by making sure you fit one of the three criteria to be able to receive an alarm. Once you are sure, fill in the application form and send it to Vicdeaf for approval.

Q. I am not sure if I am 'profoundly deaf'. What does that mean?

A. You are considered to be profoundly deaf if you average a hearing loss of 90dB or more in both ears across the frequencies from 500Hz, 1000Hz, 2000Hz and 4000Hz when tested by an audiologist.