



South Gippsland  
Shire Council

# Personal Alarms

Personal alarms are devices which can be used to alert a contact (such as a neighbour, relative, friend or a monitoring service). The alarms help people when they are in distress and cannot reach the phone. There are two basic types of alarms:

## **Non-monitored**

These can be whistles, battery-operated alarms which emit a high-pitched shriek when activated, flashing lights, etc. These usually have a limited range and rely upon someone who is willing to help being within hearing range. They also include some electronic devices that automatically dial numbers and play a recorded message to a person's nominated contacts.

## **Monitored**

These generally consist of an attachment to a home phone which receives signals from a pendant or other device worn by the user. These signals are received at a monitoring centre and a pre-agreed response is put into action after calling the client to confirm that the alert has not been accidentally activated. Some new versions can use a mobile phone to dial out.

## **How much does a Monitored Personal Alarm System cost?**

Costs of personal alarms will vary. The Victorian Government do provide free of charge a personal monitoring and emergency response service- Personal Alert Victoria (PAV) to eligible frail, isolated older people and people with disabilities to help them keep living in their homes. Eligibility for PAV is determined at an assessment that is done in the home and referrals can be arranged by Council's Support Planning Office.

## **Private personal alarm providers**

Information on providers is available in the Yellow Pages or contact the Aged and Disability Support Planning Office who may be able to assist.

Aged and Disability Support Planning Office 5662 9370



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