



Power Wheelchair Comparison Guide



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7 Tips on Selecting the right PWC for you

Your Power Wheelchair (PWC) is probably the most expensive item of Assistive Technology you own, apart from your vehicle. For the average PWC user, the typical equipment lifespan is around 4-5 years, so it is critical that you make the right decision when selecting your equipment.

As a leading provider of PWC and other specialised equipment for clients with special needs since 1952, Astris PME is well placed to share some advice based on their experience. This simple guide has been put together by leading Equipment Consultants, with input from many PWC users across a wide range of conditions (clinical and physical needs), ages and geographic locations.

Before deciding on what model Powered Wheelchair to apply for funding for, we have put together a short checklist of 7 things we recommend you check.

- 1. Get good advice.** Never rush a decision that will have an impact on you over a longer time frame. Ask your therapist what equipment they recommend, based on their knowledge of your situation and goals, and other factors. Connect with an experienced Assistive Technology Professional (ATP), and get their recommendations and advice. Remember cheaper is not always better, and you don't want to be stuck with a decision that is letting you down. Balance "value for money", with the right purchase decision for you. Trial before you buy!
- 2. Consider your environment.** Your PWC needs to perform in the environments where you work and play. You want your chair to be robust enough to take you where your manual chair can't, but still be refined enough to look the part in indoor areas and amongst company.
- 3. Consider your clinical needs.** Work with your therapist to ensure that the equipment will suit your needs, both now and in the future. If your needs are changing, you may consider hire option. Although this costs more than an outright purchase, it may suit you better if your needs are changing.
- 4. Consider your goals.** Consider your education, employment and inclusion goals, and ensure that this investment will put you on track to achieve these goals.
- 5. Consider your seating system.** A great chair with a poor seating system equals a bad investment. Make sure your therapist and ATP are making decisions as to your comfort and support, not just on the powered base.
- 6. Consider post sale support.** A PWC has many moving parts, and things will go wrong. Ask about the warranty, about programmed maintenance packages, and about how your supplier looks after after-sale support (incl breakdowns). This is extremely important if you work away from home, or live in a remote area.
- 7. Consider a MWC with Power Add-On.** Lastly, before you jump in and purchase a PWC, consider if a manual chair with a removable power assist or power-add on would better suit your needs. Discuss this option with your therapist and ATP.



The Range



Model	Q500M	Q700M	Q700UP	V6	X8	360	Stretto	Q6 Edge
Manufacturer	Sunrise	Sunrise	Sunrise	Magic	Magic	Magic	Quantum	Quantum
Drive	MWD	MWD	MWD	MWD	4WD	MWD	MWD	MWD
Turning Circle (mm)	635	1016	1016	580	1500	533	533	502
Base Width (mm)	610	635	620	710	710	610	552	620
Warranty	12 months*	12 months*	12 months*	Limited Lifetime	Limited Lifetime	Limited Lifetime	Limited Lifetime	Limited Lifetime
Weight Capacity (kg)	136-160	136-150	136-150	155-182	155-182	160	204	175
Top Speed (kph)	10	10	10	10	10	10	7.6	10
Note	Great Paediatric Chair.	High-performance. Superior manoeuvrability.	High performance power base and highly configurable.	Anterior tilt. Superb agility indoors and outdoors.	Ideal for Off-Road Mobility.	Excellent for narrow access.	Great Paediatric Chair	Engineered to meet the performance needs of the most active user.

Remember to ask your Astris PME Victoria Consultant about a programmed maintenance package for your new PWC!

*5 years on Frame/Cross-brace

Recommended Brands

Over the last 10 years, we have seen a lot of improvements in technology with Powered Wheelchairs. During this time, we have worked with numerous clients who have trusted our PWC recommendations because they suited their specific needs.

We partner with manufacturers that continue to innovate, improve, and stand behind their warranties, so we know we will be supported. There is no such thing as the 'perfect chair for all users' so we don't just recommend one brand or one model. We have a wide range of models from leading manufacturers including Sunrise Medical (Zippie & Quickie ranges), Magic Mobility (made in Australia) and Pride Mobility (Quantum).



There are other great chairs out there; the ones listed in this guide are the ones we have found work best for our clients.



Questions?
Get in touch today!



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