

Warranty

As part of its commitment to clients for life, Shonaquip will make every attempt to support its products throughout the life of the product given normal use and reasonable wear and tear. Warranty is provided on all products for varying periods (from 6 months for batteries to 3 years for Buggies, Posture and Active Wheelchairs). Please contact client services for further details.

Date of receipt of the Vehicle Positioner:

____/____/____ (yyyy/mm/dd)

	Tick	User or carer	Therapist
I have noted the manual with information about how to care for my device	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name (printed): Signature:	Name (printed): Signature:
I have been shown all the working parts of the device	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name (printed): Signature:	Name (printed): Signature:
I have seen the warranty information for my device	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name (printed): Signature:	Name (printed): Signature:

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**SHONAQUIP
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**
Enabling inclusion

Know your Vehicle Positioner



Your guide to handling and care

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Contact us

Cape Town Head Office

021 797 8239

Your therapist _____

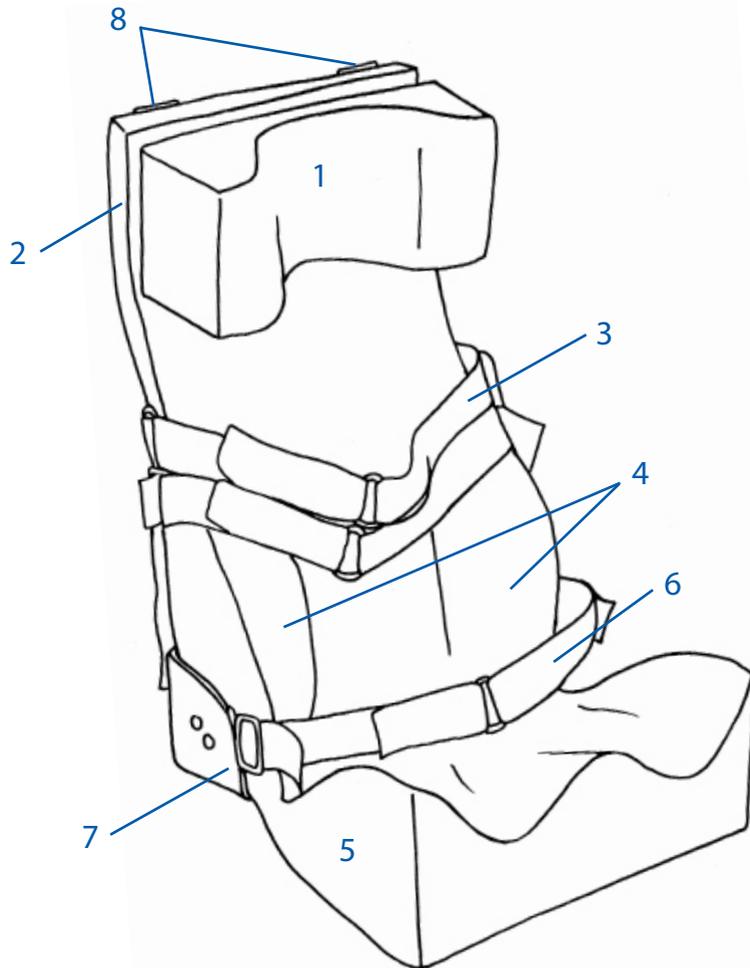
Phone number _____

Other useful numbers

Name	How they can help?	Contact number

Parts of your Vehicle Positioner

- 1 headrest
- 2 rigid backrest with covered foam cushion
- 3 chest strap (made up of two separate straps, stitched together)
- 4 side supports
- 5 shaped covered seat unit (with leg guides)
- 6 pelvic strap (x1)
- 7 rigid base
- 8 car fastening straps (2 x vertical and 1 x horizontal)
hidden behind backrest in pic



What is a Vehicle Positioner?

The Vehicle Positioner is a lightweight positioning device for transport of a user in a vehicle. It splits into a separate back and seat unit which can be easily installed or removed for transport, and can be easily dismantled for storage.

Why use a Vehicle Positioner?

A Vehicle Positioner is used to provide safe and comfortable postural support to the older wheelchair user who struggles to sit upright independently. Such a user may have poor balance, weakness or may be unable to control their movements. When transported in a vehicle, the user can often not travel sitting in their wheelchair. When sitting on the seats of the vehicle, they no longer have the postural support that they require and may not be able to sit safely balanced for the duration of the journey. Users may slump forward, slip down or fall sideways. Younger users may still be able to use a standard baby seat, but even this may not always provide adequate postural support. A booster seat for toddlers may not provide enough support to keep the user upright even when strapped in with a car seat belt. The Vehicle Positioner enables a user to be securely positioned in sitting with his/her body and head kept upright. It contributes to the overall 24 hour management and positioning routine for the user. Sitting without posture support not only affects safety and comfort during travel, but may also cause the user to feel car sick or may impair his ability to breathe comfortably or interact with others around him. A user who has uncontrolled movements may even obstruct or injure another person seated next to him. Sitting in poor positions whilst travelling for long periods over many years may contribute to the development of postural deformities.

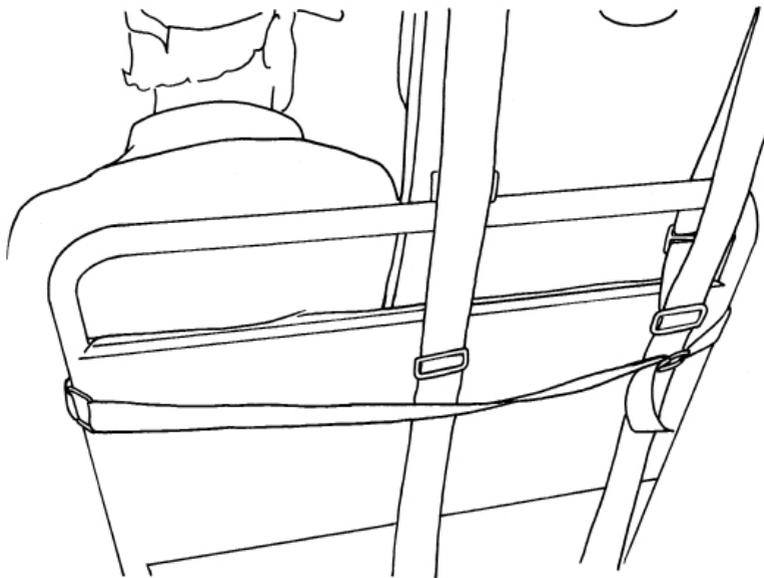
Who should use a Vehicle Positioner?

It is most useful for the older child who no longer fits into a commercial car seat or the older user with a small frame who needs postural support to sit upright.

What kind of vehicles can use a Vehicle Positioner?

The Vehicle Positioner can be installed and used in a range of vehicles. It should always be used together with a standard vehicle seat belt system. A number of Vehicle Positioners can be installed into school or day center buses where users often remain seated for long periods of time out of their wheelchair during travel to and from schools, activities or clinics. These seats usually remain installed in the vehicle and are not removed daily.

It is not always possible to use the rear seat of sedan vehicles unless you are able to thread the fastening straps around the backrest seat cushion. In larger vehicles the car seat works optimally when there is some contouring on the car seat, it does not work as well on a straight backed bench-style seat.



The Vehicle Positioner can also be fitted onto a seat of a bus.

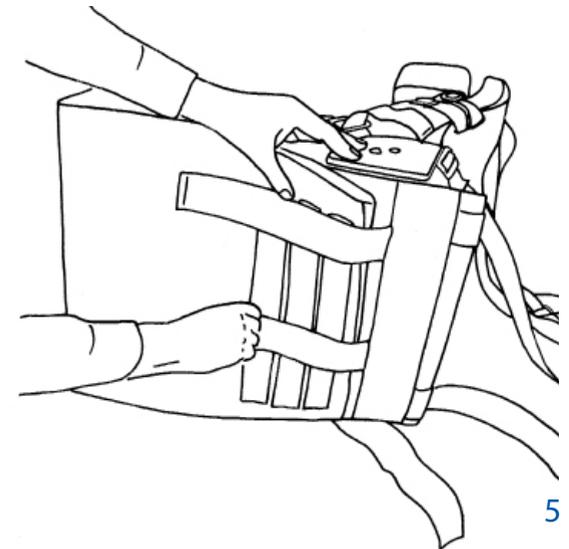
How to install the seat into the car?

Smaller children can be seated in the back seat. It is advised to install the Vehicle Positioner for older and larger users in the **front** seat of a vehicle as it has the most leg space. The front door usually opens wider than the rear door which assists with transfers and positioning. The fastening straps are secured to the seat by looping the strap around the length of the back seat cushion.



Steps to secure the positioner in the front passenger seat:

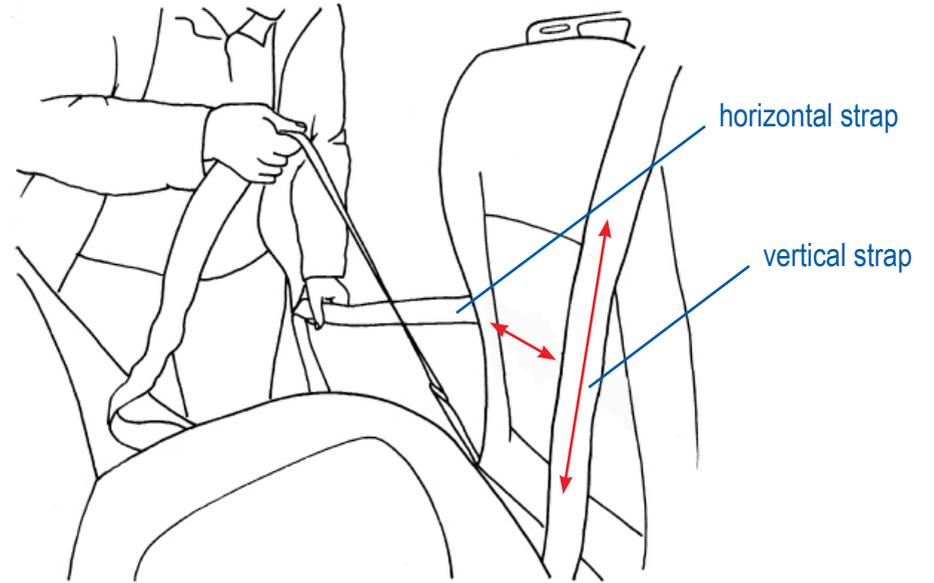
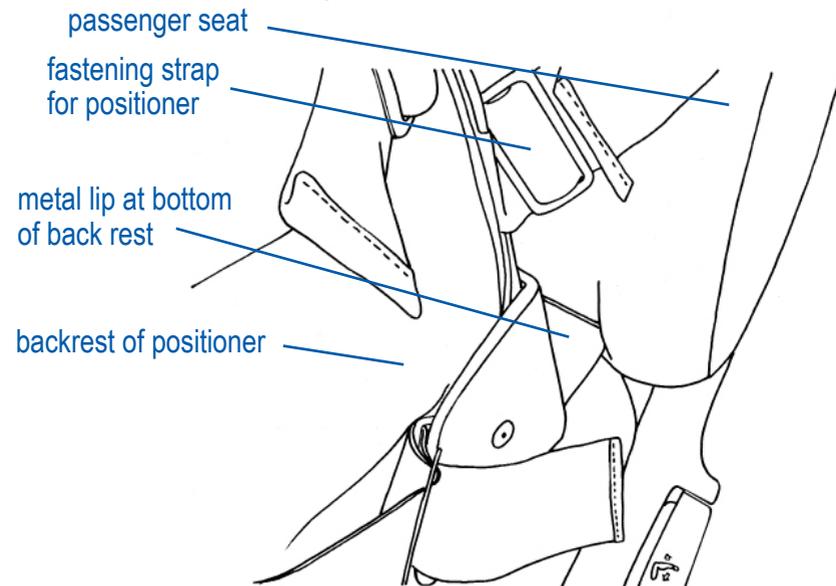
1. Disengage airbag if the Vehicle Positioner is to be used near an airbag.
2. Before placing the positioner in car, join seat unit to backrest unit by fastening velcro straps underneath seat.



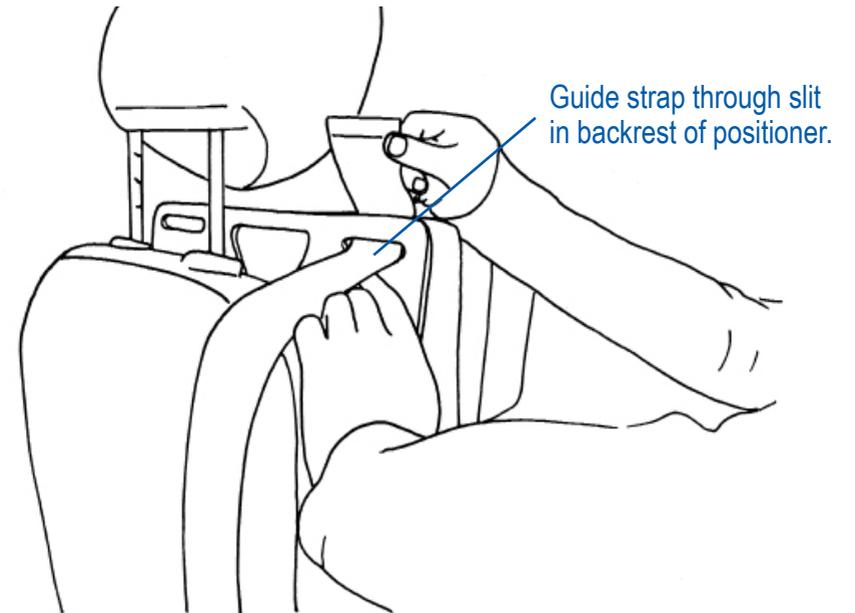
3. Undo all fastening straps behind the backrest of the Vehicle Positioner.
4. Slide the front passenger car seat further towards the back of the car.
Lift or remove the adjustable headrest of the passenger seat (as necessary, depending on height of Vehicle Positioner) before installing the positioner.

5. Place lip at the bottom of the backrest inside the groove between the seat and back support of the car seat.

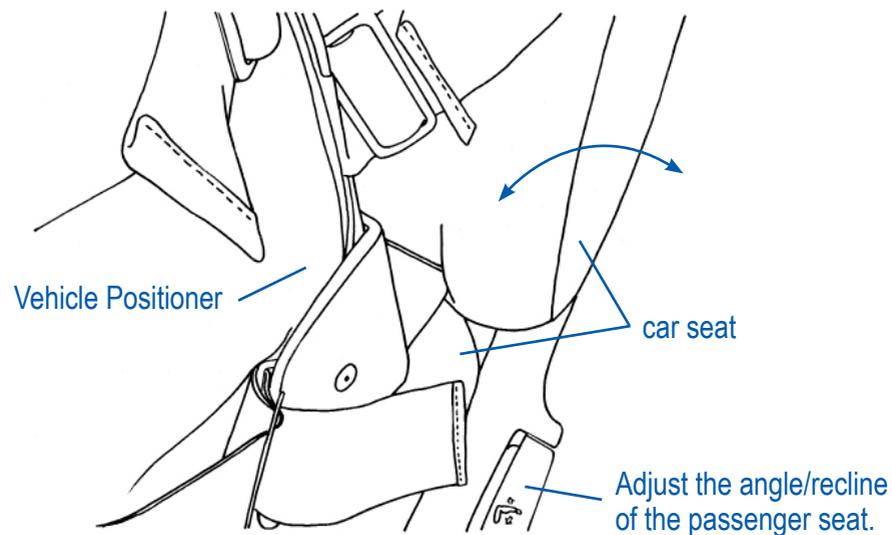
Push the 2 vertical fastening straps in between the seat and backrest cushion to the back of the car seat.



6. Draw these 2 straps up along the back of the car seat and fasten through the slits at the top of the positioner. Adjust length to fit snugly in place.



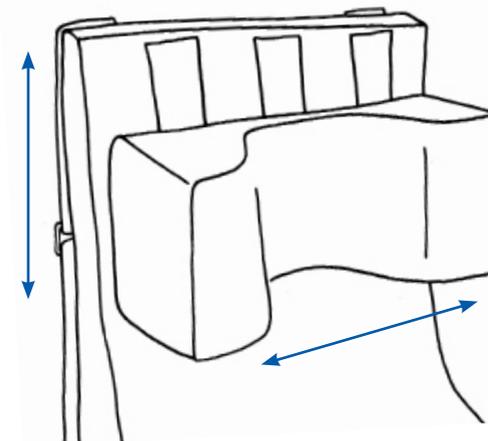
7. Draw the horizontal strap around the back of the passenger seat to secure the Vehicle Positioner firmly in place. (refer to top pic on opposite page)
8. Before transferring the user into the Vehicle Positioner, check that the seat unit is right up against the backrest and that Velcro underneath is securely fastened. Check lap and chest straps are not trapped under the seat.
9. Before transferring user, check whether you want to adjust the angle of the car seat into a more reclined or straighter position as will best suit the user. This is possible because the seat and backrest of the Vehicle Positioner are 2 separate units.



10. Ask a second helper to assist if the user is too big, heavy or difficult to move alone. It is best for the helper to assist from inside the car.

How to place the user into the car seat?

1. Put on brakes of wheelchair before transferring user into the car.
2. Explain to the user what you plan to do.
3. Transfer user onto the seat of the Vehicle Positioner so that his bottom is right against the backrest.
4. Straighten the user up as much as possible in the seat so that he/she is not falling to the side or forwards.
5. Check the user's thighs are fully supported on the cushion with his legs on either side of the middle leg guide.
6. Fasten the lap belt firmly across the user's pelvis to stop him/her sliding in the seat. Take care that it does not pull across his/her tummy.
7. Adjust the chest strap to the correct height to support the user, fasten firmly in a comfortable position. The chest strap should not interfere with the user's ability to move his arms and should be placed well beneath his armpits.
8. Check the headrest is supporting the head in a position that helps the user to look straight ahead. It should not force the head up or down or sideways. The height of the headrest can be adjusted by moving it up or down on the Velcro strips as necessary. It can also be placed slightly to the left or right if necessary but should always be placed above the user's shoulders.

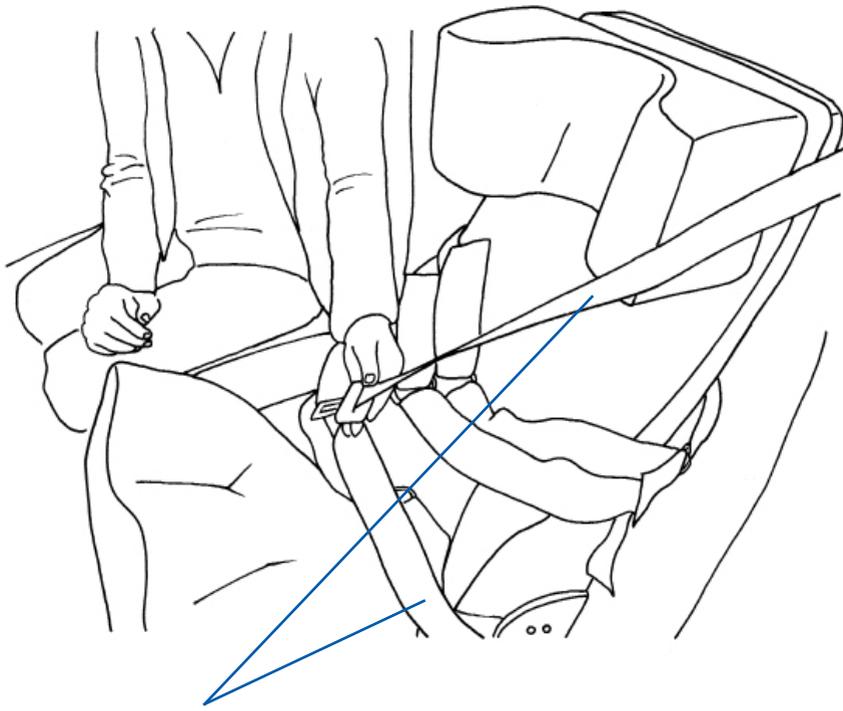


Health and safety in the Vehicle Positioner

This Vehicle Positioner has not been crash tested. It is designed as a postural support seat only.

- ⊗ Disengage airbags in front of Vehicle Positioner.
- ⊗ Only use the appropriate size positioner.
- ⊗ If the user has deformities of the spine or limited range of movement in the hips, the backrest can be reclined to position the user.
- ⊗ Avoid using extra cushions as padding instead of a positioner that fits correctly.
- ⊗ Check that the seat is not sliding at all and that the body straps are holding the user securely. The positioner should **NEVER** be used without **ALL** the straps fastened.
- ⊗ Check that no clips are missing (for adjusting fastening belts).
- ⊗ Check that the user is not sitting on any small objects or bits of food which may cause pressure marks.
- ⊗ Relieve pressure at least every 2 hours by lifting the user out of the Vehicle Positioner.
- ⊗ Check that the user is always sitting upright and is well supported and comfortable.
- ⊗ Change the user if wet or soiled before traveling in the Vehicle Positioner.
- ⊗ Always fasten the car seat belt in addition to the chest and lap straps of the Vehicle Positioner.
- ⊗ A harness with 4-point control can be fitted for a user who needs additional body support.

9. **NB** Fasten the regular car seat belt in position across the user's body for extra safety.



passenger seat safety belt

10. When lifting a user out of the Vehicle Positioner, it may be easier to first slide them slightly forward on the seat to clear the side supports of the backrest before lifting them out of the car.

How do I care for my back when lifting?

Transferring the user onto the Vehicle Positioner involves lifting in cramped spaces which may cause the carer to strain his/her back. It is important that the carer takes care to protect his/her back during all lifting and transferring of users and their wheelchairs.



Vehicle Positioner tips

Keep the wheelchair brakes on during transfers to and from car.

A second helper inside the car can assist in positioning the user from the inside of the vehicle.

1. Plan your lift

Where are you going?
Where will you put the person down again?
Get as close as possible to surface you are moving user towards.

2. Check the weight

before you lift alone.
Do you need help?

3. Keep your feet apart, stand closer to the user.

Wear solid shoes.

4. Keep your knees bent.

Take the weight through your leg muscles as you straighten up again.

5. Don't twist your body when turning. Move your feet instead.

6. Keep your back straight and your chin tucked in.

7. Tell the user

what you will be doing during the lift.

When lifting with helper, count 1..2..3...lift.

Decide who will lead the lift.

How do I clean and care for the Vehicle Positioner?

- ⊗ Looking after the Vehicle Positioner will help it to last longer and ensure that it continues to make safe travel possible for the user.
- ⊗ Shake dirt from covers. Wipe covers clean if they become soiled or wet. The black fabric can be cleaned with a damp sponge or cloth and a little Rooibos solution.
- ⊗ Wash gently with soap as necessary, remove covers from foam. Do not wash foam itself unless it has become soiled. Wipe it clean with mild soap and rinse it off. Cover foam with a towel and press or stamp out water from the foam. Leave the foam and wet covers to dry in an airy place. Avoid placing in direct sunlight or in a tumble drier.
- ⊗ Check the wear on the foam cushion/backrest and replace as necessary. Use the protective sleeve on the Velcro straps which helps the Velcro last longer.
- ⊗ Check that Velcro on belts is holding the user securely, replace as it become worn. There is a cover provided to prevent the user from causing wear to the Velcro.
- ⊗ Tears of covers should be repaired by a seamstress.
- ⊗ Replace clips on fastening straps if they go missing.
- ⊗ Don't leave the Vehicle Positioner in the sun for long periods, use a car windscreen shield to protect it from the sun.
- ⊗ Contact your service provider if you have any safety concerns.