



Funding for Private Speech Therapy Services

*A resource for parents &
carers of children
with disabilities*

To parents and carers,

It can be difficult to provide your child with the services they need. On one hand, government services sometimes have long waiting lists, but on the other hand, private services may not be an option due to the cost. This booklet was designed to help parents, carers and clinicians keep abreast of the current funding sources available to help cover the cost of private speech therapy services. Further information about relevant not-for-profit organisations has also been included due to the shortage of funding options that exist. For service providers we have included information and links relating to grant sources available within Australia. We also recognize there is lack of

funding options accessible for speech therapy services and for this reason we have included information on how you, as a parent or carer of a child with disabilities, can make your voice heard and promote greater access to speech pathology services through lobbying. We hope you find this resource helpful, whatever your situation.



Aims

- To identify key government funding sources for children with disabilities receiving private speech therapy services.
- To identify non-government organisations that offer services for children with disabilities and their families.
- To provide information on:
 - eligibility criteria
 - entitlements
 - how to apply for funding
 - where to go for further details
- To identify private health insurance funding options for children with disabilities and their families.
- To identify grant and funding sources for service providers.
- To inform parents and carers about what they can do to help improve the current funding situation.



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Haven't got much time?
Look for this box for
eligibility criteria!



Government Funded Sources



Medicare Chronic Disease Management Plan

Am I Eligible?

Your child must...

- ✓ be an Australian citizen
- ✓ be enrolled under Medicare Australia
- ✓ have a chronic disease or complex care needs being managed by a GP

What does this entitle me to receive?

- Your GP will nominate the number of sessions your child will receive.
- You may receive up to five (5) sessions per calendar year.
- The five sessions may cover one type of service (e.g. speech pathology) or a combination of different types of services including:
 - **Speech Pathologist**
 - Aboriginal Health worker
 - Audiologist
 - Chiropractor
 - Diabetes Educator
 - Dietician
 - Exercise Physiologist
 - Occupational Therapist
 - Osteopath
 - Physiotherapist
 - Podiatrist
 - Psychologist
 - Mental Health Worker
- You remain eligible for rebates while your child is being managed under this plan and the need for eligible services continues to be recommended.
- You will receive a rebate of approximately \$50.95 per session.

How do I access this?

- Talk to your GP as they will refer you to an eligible speech pathologist.

**Talk to
your GP!**

Are there any restrictions?

- Under this plan, speech therapy sessions must be delivered to the individual child in person and be at least 20 minutes long.
- Private health insurance benefits may not be used in conjunction with the Medicare rebate.
- The speech pathologist must be registered with Medicare.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Talk to your local GP.
- Call Medicare Australia on 132 150 for enquiries.
- Visit the Medicare website at **www.medicareaustralia.gov.au** for more information.

Helping Children with Autism Package

Am I Eligible?

For the Autism package:

- ✓ The child must have a management plan from a paediatrician or psychiatrist before their 13th birthday.

For the early intervention payments:

- ✓ The child must have seen an Autism Advisor before their 6th birthday to be eligible to access this funding.

What is the package about?

- Services are available for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) or any other pervasive developmental disorder (PDD) such as *Rett's Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome or childhood disintegrative disorder*.
- All initiatives include support for parents, families, carers and children from indigenous backgrounds, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and those living in rural and remote areas. This package includes:
 - Autism Advisors
 - Funding for early intervention services
 - Play Connect playgroups
 - Early Days family workshops
 - An ASD website
- Autism Specific Early Learning and Care **Centre's** have been established in six locations to provide programs and support for children.
- Older children have access to initiatives delivered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). These include professional development for teachers and school staff supporting students with ASDs. Funding is available for parents and carers to attend workshops and online seminars.

What does this entitle me to receive?

- You will receive access to services from the panel of Early Intervention Service Providers.
- \$12,000 in funding is provided under the early intervention component and can be **used until the child's 7th birthday** (with a maximum of \$6,000 per financial year).
- Up to 35% of the **child's** early intervention funding may be used to purchase resources (with a maximum of \$2,100 per financial year or \$4,200 in total). These resources must be assessed by an Early Intervention Panel Provider and be essential **to the child's therapy**.

- Services from paediatricians and psychiatrists are provided to diagnose and develop a management plan for the child under 13 years of age.
- You may have access to services from:
 - **Speech pathologists**
 - Audiologists
 - Occupational therapists
 - Optometrists
 - Orthoptists
 - Physiotherapists
 - Psychologists
- These professionals may provide:
 - up to four **assessment** services in total per child at the request of the diagnosing paediatrician or psychiatrist; these **must occur prior to the child's 13th birthday**
 - up to 20 **treatment** services in total per child; these services must be **provided before the child's 15th birthday**



How do I access this?

Early intervention funding:

- Contact an Autism Advisor who will provide information regarding eligibility, available funding and other support services.
- The Autism Advisors can be contacted through the lead agency associations for each state.

Medicare items:

- See your GP, who **will consider your child's condition and** may decide to refer your child to a paediatrician or psychiatrist, and/or to other services.
- The paediatrician or psychiatrist to whom your child is referred will:
 - **assess your child's condition, develop an accurate diagnosis,** and create a treatment and management plan
 - possibly refer you to a number of allied health professionals during the assessment and planning process
 - invoice your child; Medicare will provide a rebate for this service
 - refer your child for treatment sessions with allied health professionals

The Raising Children Network (RCN) ASD website resources:

- Visit **raisingchildren.net.au** to find information, online resources and interactive functions to support parents, families, carers and professionals.

Are there any restrictions?

- Only one treatment and management plan for autism/PDD will be rebated by Medicare for each child.
- The plan must be **in place before the child's 13th birthday**.
- Allied health professionals must be registered with Medicare Australia and be working within a private practice.
- If your child has already been provided with services under the ***Better Start for Children with Disability Initiative***, they are not entitled to this package.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Call the Helping Children with Autism Inquiry line on 1800 778 581 or Autism Queensland Inc 1800 428 847 or (07) 3273 0000
- Call Medicare Australia on 132 011
- Send enquiries by email to ***asd@facsia.gov.au***
- Visit the website:
www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/people/HelpingChildrenWithAutism
- Visit the Medicare website: ***www.mbsonline.gov.au***



Better Start for Children with a Disability Initiative

Am I Eligible?

- ✓ Your child must be aged under 6 years and have been diagnosed with *Down syndrome, Cerebral palsy, Fragile X syndrome*, or a significant *vision or hearing impairment*, including *deafblindness*.
- ✓ Eligibility thresholds for each disability are as follows:
 - **Hearing impairment:** a hearing loss of 40 decibels or greater in the better ear, across 4 frequencies; this includes permanent conductive hearing loss and auditory neuropathy
 - **Sight impairment:** vision of less than or equal to 6/18, or equivalent field loss, in the better eye with correction
 - **Deafblindness:** diagnosis by a specialist multidisciplinary team which includes an ophthalmological and audiological evaluation
 - **Down syndrome:** a confirmed diagnosis of Down syndrome, including mosaic Down syndrome
 - **Fragile X syndrome:** a confirmed diagnosis of Fragile X syndrome with full mutation
 - **Cerebral palsy:** a confirmed diagnosis of cerebral palsy.
- ✓ Both the carer and the child must be living in Australia permanently as:
 1. an Australian citizen, or
 2. the holder of a permanent resident visa, or
 3. a New Zealand citizen who was in Australia on 26 February 2001, or for 12 months in the 2 years immediately before that date, or was assessed as "protected" before 26 February 2004.

What does this entitle me to receive?

- Up to \$12,000 worth of funding for intervention and treatment services is available (a maximum of \$6,000 per financial year).
- Additional assistance for eligible children who live in outer-regional, rural or remote locations to help with the costs of accessing services.
- A Medicare item for the development of a treatment and management plan for eligible children up to the age of 13 years.
- Medicare items for up to four allied health assessment services, the results of which contribute to the development of the treatment and management plan.

- Medicare items for up to a total of 20 relevant allied health services for each child up to the age of 15 years, provided the management plan is in place before the **child's 13th** birthday.
- Services may be accessed from the following professionals

- **Speech Pathologists**
- Physiotherapists
- Audiologists
- Psychologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Orthoptists

- Up to 35% (\$4,200) of a child's early intervention funding can be used to purchase resources (a maximum of \$2,100 in any one financial year).

Resources that are purchased with Better Start funds must:

- Be **recommended by the child's Better Start** service provider.
- Be directly linked with the early intervention services being delivered to the child.
- Provide support for the delivery of interventions at home.

Note: The Better Start resources component of the early intervention funding cannot be used to pay for items or interventions that are out of the scope of Better Start (e.g. swimming lessons) or for items or services that are provided through other schemes or funding arrangements, such as incontinence aids or reading glasses.

How do I access this?

Registration of eligible children is managed by the dedicated Registration and Information Service (RIS), which is operated by Carers Australia.

- To register a child for the Better Start early intervention funding, parents and carers must call the RIS on 1800 242 636.
- To successfully register a child for the early intervention funding, parents or carers must be able to provide the RIS with evidence of the child's:
 - **age (e.g. the child's birth certificate or passport)**
 - residential address (e.g. utilities bill)
 - diagnosis (see below for details)
 - residential status (if applicable)
 - Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN)

Proof of diagnosis: RIS staff must sight a written conclusive diagnosis made by or through one of the following:

- a paediatrician, **or**
- a relevant medical specialist, such as a neurologist, ophthalmologist, otologist, or ENT, **or**
- a general practitioner, **or**
- a multidisciplinary assessment service, **or**
- Australian Hearing



An acceptable form for a diagnosis should include either:

- letter-head paper, which includes the signature and position of the diagnosing professional, *or*
- an email with an 'approved for transmission' statement in the email written by the appropriate diagnosing professional

To ensure children can be registered for the initiative without unnecessary delay, parents and carers are encouraged to make sure that they have the required documentation ready prior to contacting the RIS.

Are there any restrictions?

- There are no restrictions once you have a valid diagnosis.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Contact the Better Start Helpline on 1800 989 530
- Email enquiries to ***Better.Start@fahcsia.gov.au***
- As further information about this initiative becomes available, it is published online at:
www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/children_disability



Disability & Community Care Services (Department of Communities)

Am I Eligible?

Your child must:

- ✓ be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- ✓ live in Queensland
- ✓ have a permanent disability that:
 1. began before the age of 65 years
 2. substantially affects one or more of the following areas:
 - communication
 - social interaction
 - learning
 - mobility
 - self care/management
- ✓ need a significant and ongoing level of disability support
- ✓ be aged between 0-6 **or** 18-65 years of age

What does this entitle me to receive?

- Disability & Community Care (DCC) Services provide funding to service providers rather than to the individuals using the services.
- DCC will evaluate your child's needs may be provide therapy either directly or by funding another service provider. This will depend on the needs of the individual.

How do I access this service?

The first step is to contact your local Disability Services centre. Contact details for your local centre are available online or by phone (see below for details). Your local Disability Services centre will handle your case via a six-step service pathway.

How does the six step service pathway work?

1. **Contact:** this can be done entirely over telephone or you can complete a *Request for Assistance* form. In this step you can find out what support may be available, seek answers to your questions, and request specialist support.



**Contact your
local
Disability
Services**

2. **Intake:** all requests for support come through Disability Services. They gather information about your child and family and establish the best way to help. If the information you have provided indicates that your child may require specialist disability services, the intake officer will refer the child for a needs assessment (step 3).
3. **Needs assessment and prioritization:** A trained assessor will determine if your child is eligible for specialist disability services. This is a meeting with your child, a family member or carer, and a trained assessor from Disability Services. No matter where you live in Queensland, the needs assessment process is the same.
4. **Support linking:** The role of support linking is to assist people with a disability to connect with the supports they require and to maintain their relationships with essential supports. An Individual Support Plan (ISP) will be developed to match available services with your child's support needs.
5. **Service delivery:** Where funded services are approved and available, your ISP is used to guide you to the supports and services you need. Support may come from specialist services supplied by Disability Services or from non-government service providers they fund. These will complement mainstream and/or informal supports your child may also access. Where available, services will be provided to meet your specific needs and goals as set out in your ISP - this may include speech pathology services.
6. **Review:** To ensure that the services your child receives continue to meet your needs, a review may be scheduled to happen at set time periods, to correspond with major life events, or may be triggered by a change in your child's circumstances.



Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability
- Contact your local Disability Services centre on 1800 177 120 (Telephone typewriter (TTY) 1800 010 222).
- Email inquiries to disabilityinfo@disability.qld.gov.au

Non- Government Funded Services



Autism Queensland

Am I Eligible?

- ✓ Your child must have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder or related condition by a paediatrician or psychiatrist. This diagnosis must meet one of the DSM IV Pervasive Developmental Disorder criteria of:
 - Autistic Disorder
 - **Asperger's Disorder**
 - Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS)
 - **Rett's Disorder**
 - Childhood Disintegrative Disorder
- Note:** Autism Queensland requires a signed letter of diagnosis from your child's paediatrician or psychiatrist to proceed with registration.

What is Autism Queensland about?

Autism Queensland is a not-for-profit organisation which relies on donations to assist in the delivery of services and supports for people with autism and their families. Support from the community makes a vital contribution to the cost of specialist staff and equipment and the provision of services to people with autism.

What services are offered?

- **Family Support Services** offer individual support to families and adult clients through advocacy, referral, liaison, information and general support. Support groups, sibling programs and camps, **parenting courses, mothers' camps and an adult recreation group** are also available.
- **Outreach Services Team** visit schools (or other education settings such as kindergartens) throughout most of Queensland to provide information, advice, support and individualised strategies to parents, staff and other key professionals.
- **Accredited, Independent Autism Specific Schools** provide a range of group placement options for school aged children. Students are grouped according to age, ability and needs with a maximum of six students per group. Students are supported throughout their placement utilising a multidisciplinary team including teachers, teacher aides, social workers, psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists. Attendance is part-time, for up to two years. These placements cater for students between the ages of Prep and 18 years and are located in Brighton, Brisbane and Sunnybank Hills.

- **Home AQtion Programs** is a short term program to assist families with issues at home which impact participation at school. Programs are facilitated by a teacher and are individually tailored to suit each family's needs and may occur either in the home or in a centre.
- **Early AQtion Early Intervention Services** provide a range of Early Intervention services for young children with autism through Early AQtion Central Queensland and Early AQtion Far North Queensland. The Central Queensland service operates from Rockhampton and the Far North Queensland service operates from Cairns. Services include group placement programs, play and learn programs and outreach programs. Autism Queensland's schools also provide Early Intervention group placement options for children below school age.
- **Individual Programs** are tailored to the needs of the person with autism, the person's family, the educational setting and/or other support services are provided. These programs are available to children throughout most of Queensland and are unsubsidised. However, some children may be eligible for the Helping Children with Autism Early Intervention Funding to cover all or part of the cost of this program.
- **Autism Advisor Program** assesses the eligibility for the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) Early Intervention Funding Package. They provide advice and information to families about Early Intervention services and other related community and support services for young children with autism and their families.
- **Autism Spectrum Disorder Therapy Clinic** in Brisbane provides speech pathology and occupational therapy services from clinicians who have experience working with children with autism.
- **Respite Services** offer overnight and weekend respite services. Autism Queensland also provides school holiday programs on both the north and south sides of Brisbane. These school holiday programs are offered during the Christmas holidays and one other holiday period throughout the year.
- **There are over 25 Support Groups** in the local community across the state. These groups provide vital support for parents and families of individuals with autism. These groups meet on a monthly basis and are a great source of local information for families. These groups provide a vital link to Autism Queensland and the services that are offered.
- **Accommodation Services for Adults** provides support for people to live in the community. Currently there are eight houses across the Brisbane region. Autism Queensland also provides Community Access programs which are tailored to suit the individual's needs.

Visit their
website at
www.autismqld.com.au

How do I access this?

- Call Autism Queensland on (07) 3273 0000
- Complete a registration form and return the form together with the following:
 - a **copy of your child's letter of diagnosis from a medical specialist or permission to request a copy directly from your child's doctor or the Autism Advisor Program**
 - registration fee of \$55.00 (GST free and non-refundable) together with registration fee documentation
 - a copy of any other relevant reports regarding your child
- If you are registering more than one child you are only required to pay one registration fee. If you register another child at a later time, the fee will be waived if a family member has current membership.

Note: Unless otherwise requested by you, your child will remain a registered client of Autism Queensland permanently.

Are there any restrictions?

- Your child must have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at **www.autismqld.com.au**
- Phone them on (07) 3273 0000
- Email them at **admin@autismqld.com.au** for specific enquiries.



AEIOU

Am I Eligible?

- ✓ Your child must have a diagnosis of Autism.

What is AEIOU?

The AEIOU Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation which provides two intervention programs for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). These are the Early Intervention Program and the Educational Support Program. The goal of the Foundation is to maximise the learning opportunities of these children in order for them to reach their full potential. This is achieved through joint teamwork by the child, their families, teachers and staff at AEIOU centres.

What services are offered?

- **Early Intervention Program:** The aim of this program is to provide your child with the classroom and social skills needed for school in later life. By starting early, your child will have a greater chance for improvement in these areas. Your child can attend your nearest AEIOU centre either part-time or full-time. Your child will receive input from qualified early childhood specialists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists and music therapists. This program is **uniquely tailored to your child's needs and background, and parents** are strongly encouraged to take an active part in their child's intervention.
- **Educational Support Program:** This program will deliver the learning support your child may need while they are at school. A special education teacher, speech pathologist and occupational therapist will work together with you and your child. This program is **uniquely designed to match your child's strengths and needs for the best results.**

How do I access this?

Your child must be assessed by AEIOU staff to determine if they are suitable for the program. The Early Intervention Program is available for children aged between 2.5 to 5 years. The Educational Support Program is for children who are in primary school (Prep to Year 7).

Will I need to pay for AEIOU services?

- The AEIOU Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation, but you will still need to pay a minimal fee to cover the basics of running the intervention centres.
- The Lynn Wright Memorial Fund is available to provide financial support for children who are unable to attend AEIOU without this support. You must be an Australian Resident, and be eligible for Child Care Benefits (CCB), Child Care Rebates (CCR) and the Helping Children With Autism package. For details on how to apply and the amount of funding available, see the contact details below.
- If your child is receiving funding under the Helping Children With Autism package, then you can choose to use this package to pay for AEIOU services. If your child is not covered by this package or you choose not to use it for AEIOU services, then you will need to pay a service fee.



Where can I go if I need further information?

- Call AEIOU on (07) 3320 7500
- Visit their website at **www.aeiou.org.au**
- For questions about the Educational Support Program:
 - Contact Cate Hamilton on (07) 3255 9966 or 0448 023 048
 - Email her at **cate.willing@aeiou.org.au**
- For questions about the Early Intervention Program you can:
 - Call the Parent Helpline 1300 273 435
 - Call Debbie Burtenshaw on (07) 3320 7915 or 0400 116 592
- For questions about AEIOU fees or the Lynn Wright Memorial Fund:
 - Contact Katrina Ives on (07) 3320 7545
 - Email her at **katrina.ives@aeiou.org.au**



Montrose Access

Am I Eligible?

- ✓ Your child must have a physical disability, either a specified or a non-specified diagnosis.
- ✓ Places are offered based on what is in the best interest of the client, the availability of services and whether this is the most suitable service.
- ✓ All client admissions are on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of Montrose Access after thorough review of **your child's condition and** their ability to meet the service requirements.
- ✓ Families are asked to contribute \$250 per year per client receiving services. If your family's only source of income is from Centrelink you will not be asked to make a contribution.

What is Montrose Access?

Montrose Access is an independent not-for-profit organisation without political or religious affiliation which provides therapy, respite and recreation services to children and young adults with physical disabilities throughout Queensland. Montrose Access does not duplicate services provided by condition-specific organisations – they provide services to young people who would not otherwise be able to obtain them.

What services are offered?

- **Family support**
 - Providing information and assistance to help individuals access appropriate community resources such as government benefits, housing and respite
 - Providing literature and practical resources relating to issues such as emotional processes, management techniques and sibling's needs
 - Assistance with funding submissions
 - Advocacy and consultation with other service providers such as schools, support agencies and hospitals
 - Confidential counselling and support for children and families in areas such as adjustment and change, loss and grief, self-esteem, stress management and coping strategies, parenting strategies, relationship issues
 - Facilitating peer support and networking for children and their caregivers and siblings through group activities, coffee mornings, parent retreats and special event days

- **Clinics**
 - Twice monthly Neuromuscular Clinics
 - Arthritis Clinic
- **Equipment loans**
 - Short term equipment loans and hire where there is a government shortfall or a gap in provision
 - Access to websites for buying and selling second hand equipment
- **Hydrotherapy**
 - Access to Hydrotherapy Pool for use specifically by people who need Aquatic Physiotherapy
- **Speech therapy services**
 - To support children in maintaining and developing their speech, language, literacy and swallowing skills
 - Reading 4 Fun program
- **Occupational therapy services**
- **Paediatric Physiotherapy services**
- **Orthotics**
 - Most items are provided at no charge to the family.
- **Recreation**
 - Camps
 - Group activities
 - Holiday activities
 - Leisure counselling
 - Support for school camps
- **Respite Services**
 - In-home Respite Services
 - Out-of-home Respite Services



How do I access this?

- Call Montrose Access on (07) 3379 9200

Are there any restrictions?

- Your child must have a physical disability.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at: www.montroseaccess.org.au
- Phone them on (07) 3379 9200
- Email enquiries to: information@montroseaccess.org.au

Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus (SBH) Queensland

Am I Eligible?

- ✓ Any child with spina bifida or hydrocephalus is eligible to register.
- ✓ Children with moderate to severe needs are highest priority for funded services.

What is SBH Queensland?

SBH Queensland is a not-for-profit organisation that provides services to children with Spina bifida and hydrocephalus and their families to help them prepare their child for life at school and beyond.

What services are offered?

- Support and liaison with medical staff at hospital clinics
- Advice on aids, equipment and home modifications
- Country outreach trips
- Playgroups in Brisbane
- Annual Christmas Parties
- Equipment for short term loan to help families decide on the most suitable equipment for their child
- Annual Camps for 10-13 year old children for four days during the September school holidays

For children with a severe level of disability (with an Education Queensland Education Adjustment Profile) SBH Queensland also provides:

- Assistance with inclusion in schools.
- Individual therapy and programs to assist play skills, independence, social interactions and academic needs.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at **spinabifida.org**
- Phone them on (07) 3844 4600

Cerebral Palsy League

Am I Eligible?

To be eligible to receive services from the Cerebral Palsy League (CPL), your child must:

- ✓ have a primary impairment of cerebral palsy or a related disability
- ✓ be aged between 0-18 years or attending school

To be eligible to receive a service from School Support, a student must:

- be aged between 0-18 years of age, or still attending a secondary education placement
- have a confirmed diagnosis of cerebral palsy or related physical disability
- meet requirements for Educational Adjustment Profile (EAP) in the area of Physical Impairment

In addition to these basic eligibility criteria the student must:

- have a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) or identified educational adjustments, if over 3 years of age
- attend an educational placement and reside within a locality where CPL provides an allied health service

What services are offered?

A broad range of support for your child, the whole family, carers and support networks, including the following:

- **Allied Health Services:** The allied health team is committed to providing holistic, integrated therapy services for children, families and adults with a physical disability at home, at school, at work and in the community. Allied health services include:
 - **Speech pathology**
 - Occupational therapy
 - Physiotherapy
 - Psychology
 - Social work
 - Diet and nutrition
 - Assistive technology support

- **Support at home:** An in-home coordinator will work with your family to identify your specific needs.
- **Support at school:** Assist families and school staff with information and participation support relating to education. Support may be provided to assist transition including: choosing the most appropriate educational setting; contributing to the IEP (Individual Education Plan) process; and providing advice regarding the prescription, provision, maintenance and training in the use of specialised equipment in the areas of communication, posture, mobility, learning, daily living and mealtime management.
- **Support in the community:** Services include; outside of school hours care, vacation care, playgroups, nutrition workshops, gym groups, Camp Have A Chat, communication support groups, Screech Theatre, parents and carers support groups and many more.

How do I access this?

- Contact the Cerebral Palsy League at www.cplqld.org.au for a list of their service areas and contact details to inquire about accessing these services.
- Cerebral Palsy League services may be funded through the Better Start Initiative or other government funding.



Are there any restrictions?

- The diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy must be the primary diagnosis of impairment.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at www.cplqld.org.au
- For general enquiries you can email exec@cplqld.org.au or call (07) 3358 8011

Down Syndrome Association of Queensland

Am I Eligible?

- ✓ Persons with Down syndrome, parents, carers, siblings over the age of 18, non-immediate family members and the general public are welcome to become a member of the association.

The Down Syndrome Association of Queensland Inc. (DSAQ) was founded in April 1976 to offer assistance to families and act as an advocate for people with Down syndrome and their families. The DSAQ vision is for people with Down syndrome to access appropriate resources and support in order for them to reach their full potential. Currently, they provide information and support to families, teachers, therapists, medical professionals and other community workers.

What services are offered?

- **Contact Centre:** This enables members and the wider community to access information and support.
- **New Parent Support:** New and expectant parents can contact other parents who have shared similar experiences. A dedicated group of volunteers is available to provide peer support to new parents when a baby with Down syndrome is born. These volunteers are able to visit you at the hospital, at home, or to talk to you on the phone. They can provide information, answer questions and give encouragement and support.
- **On-going Information and Support:** The Information & Support Services Coordinator is available for 'not so new' parents who may want to talk to someone about a particular issue they are currently facing (e.g. toilet training, specific health issues, finding employment etc). Various information and resources are always available for families.
- **Education Support:** This support aims to promote improved educational outcomes for all students with Down syndrome. The education consultant oversees programs and services designed to maximise the developmental achievements of students with Down



syndrome both in their educational environment and in the wider community. This is done in partnership with families, educational institutions, industry, community and government.

- **Library:** A borrowing library is available to loan books, journals, activities, DVDs, and CDs. Members are able to borrow 4 items for up to 4 weeks at a time, and items can be posted to regional members and those who cannot make it to the office. A technology hub has also been set up to enable families to trial iPods and iPads, computer accessories and programs, and a variety of assistive technologies.
- **Magazine:** A quarterly magazine provides information on current developments and covers topics of interest relating to Down syndrome. It is also an avenue for members to share their stories and successes, and to find out what's going on throughout Queensland with DSAQ. Subscription is covered by membership costs.
- **Social Activities:** Coffee mornings, picnics and barbeques are organised as a way of linking families. These gatherings provide an opportunity for parents to share experiences and for children to meet and form friendships.
- **Parent Education:** The DSAQ organises guest speakers and workshops on topics of interest to parents. The Community Outreach Coordinator works with regional representatives to ensure that all members have access to information as required.
- **Workshops & Training:** DSAQ provides a variety of workshops and training sessions for educators, families and professionals. Workshops are held on a range of topics throughout Queensland and in-house training is also available.

How do I access this?

You simply fill out a membership form and pay membership fees on January 1st of each year.

- **Full Membership (\$50.00):** Parents, carers and siblings over the age of 18 years and individuals with Down syndrome.
- **Single Affiliate (\$40.00):** Non-immediate family members and the general public.
- **Group Affiliate (\$60.00):** Where more than one person makes use of the information and services (e.g., Schools, childcare centres, etc.)

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at dsaq.worldsecuresystems.com
- For general enquiries you can email exec@cplqld.org.au
- Call them on (07) 3358 8011

Private Health Fund Sources





Please note:

- This is not an exhaustive list of all available health funds.
- Please contact the health fund of interest regarding their policies and guidelines.
- Amounts quoted are estimates for QLD residents only and are current as of October 2011. Estimates are subject to change based on the individual circumstances, location and at the health fund provider's discretion.
- Waiting periods often apply before services can be claimed.
- Medicare rebates are not always available in conjunction with private health insurance.

- **Already a member of a private health fund, or transferring health funds?**

Contact the health fund to find out what you are entitled to receive and what you are covered for within that calendar year.

GMHBA

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Cover	Monthly Premiums	
	Single parent	Family
Gold extras	\$80.95*	\$80.95*
Platinum extras	\$115.25*	\$115.25*
Silver extras	\$44.85*	\$44.85*

*Note this amount is for extras cover and does not include hospital cover.

What does this entitle me to receive?

Speech Therapy Services	Type of cover		
	Platinum extras	Gold extras	Silver extras
Initial visit	80%	\$54	\$27
Subsequent visits	80%	\$25	\$21
Limit per calendar year	\$500	\$500	\$400

What other services are available?

- Acupuncture
- Ambulance transport
- Audiology
- Chiropractic
- Dental
- Dietetics
- Blood-glucose monitor
- Eye therapy & Optical
- Extremity pump
- Foot orthotics
- Hearing aids
- Home nursing
- Homeopathy
- Hydrotherapy
- Myotherapy
- Naturopathy
- Nebuliser
- Pharmacy
- Orthopaedic appliances
- Osteopathy
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Prosthesis
- Psychology



**Up to
\$500
per year**

Are there any restrictions?

- Waiting periods of up to 2 months may apply in order to receive speech therapy services.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website www.gmhba.com.au
- Phone them on 1300 446 422

HCF

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Cover	Monthly Premiums	
	Single parent	Family
Health cover plus extras only	\$80.95*	\$80.95*
Health cover plus extras	\$115.25	\$115.25
Multicover	\$44.85	\$44.85

*Note this amount is for extras cover and does not include hospital cover.

What does this entitle me to receive?

Speech Therapy Services	Type of cover		
	Platinum extras	Gold extras	Silver extras
Initial visit	80%	\$54	\$27
Subsequent visits	80%	\$25	\$21
Limit per calendar year	\$500	\$500	\$400

What other services are available with extras?

- Physiotherapy
- Hydrotherapy
- Exercise physiology
- Occupational therapy
- Audiology
- Psychology
- Dietetics
- Podiatry
- General dental

Are there any restrictions?

- Waiting periods of up to 2 months may apply in order to receive speech therapy services.
- The speech pathologist must be approved by the health fund provider.
- Please review policies on pre-existing conditions.



Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at www.hcf.com.au
- Phone them on 13 13 34

People Care Health Insurance

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Cover	Monthly Premiums	
	Single parent	Family
Gold Plan (Private hospital cover + gold extras)	\$255.33	\$312.84

What does this entitle me to receive?

Speech Therapy Services	Type of cover
	Gold extras
Initial visit	80%
Subsequent visits	80%
Limit per calendar year	\$800

What other services are available with extras?

- General dental
- Optical cover
- Physiotherapy
- Chiropractor
- Osteopathy
- Natural Therapies
- Psychology
- Orthotics
- Health management benefits
- Pharmacy
- Ambulance Cover

Are there any restrictions?

- Waiting periods from 0-12 months may apply in order to receive speech therapy services.
- The speech pathologist must be approved by the health fund provider.
- Please review policies on pre-existing conditions.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at: www.peoplecare.com.au
- Phone them on 1800 808 700



Medibank Private

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Cover	Monthly Premiums
Top extras 55	\$36.35*
Top extras 70	\$52.50*
Top extras 85	\$68.45*

*Note this amount is for extras cover and does not include hospital cover.

What does this entitle me to receive?

Speech Therapy Services	Type of cover		
	Top extras 55	Top extras 70	Top extras 85
Limit per calendar year	\$200	\$400	\$500

What other services are available with extras?

- Physiotherapy
- Hydrotherapy
- Exercise physiology
- Occupational therapy
- Audiology
- Psychology
- Dietetics
- Podiatry
- General dental

Are there any restrictions?

- Waiting periods of up to 2 months may apply in order to receive speech therapy services.
- The speech pathologist must be approved by the health fund provider.
- Please review policies on pre-existing conditions.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at www.hcf.com.au
- Phone them on 13 13 34



Australian Unity Health

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Cover	Monthly Premiums
Natural therapies	\$97.55*
Comprehensive	\$73.35*
Super extras	\$151.10*

*Note this amount is for extras cover and does not include hospital cover.

What does this entitle me to receive?

Speech Therapy Services	Type of cover		
	Natural Therapies extras	Comprehensive	Super extras
Limit per calendar year (individual)	\$500	\$350	\$

What other services are available with extras?

- General dental
- Orthodontic
- Optical
- Chiropractic
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Psychology
- Non PBS pharmaceuticals
- Acupuncture
- Naturopathy
- Remedial massage
- Hearing aids
- Blood glucose monitors

Are there any restrictions?

- There is no specified waiting periods to receive speech therapy services.
- The speech pathologist must be approved by the health fund provider.
- Please review policies on pre-existing conditions.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at:
www.australianunity.com.au
- Phone them on 13 29 39



Up to
\$500
per year

HBA

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Cover	Monthly Premiums	
	Single Parent	Family
Gold extras	\$115.90*	\$115.90*
Platinum extras	\$153.20*	\$153.20*
Silver extras	\$73.60*	\$73.60*

*Note this amount is for extras cover and does not include hospital cover.

What does this entitle me to receive?

Speech Therapy Services	Type of cover		
	Platinum extras	Gold extras	Silver extras
Initial visit	\$56.00	\$47.00	\$27.00
Subsequent visits/ group visits	\$29.00 \$11.00	\$24.00 \$10.00	\$20.00 \$9.00
Limit per calendar year	\$500	\$500	\$400

What other services are available?

- General/Major Dental
- Orthodontics
- Home Nursing
- Optical
- Physiotherapy
- Chiropractic
- Osteopathy
- Eye therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Natural Therapies
- Pharmacy
- Dietary
- Psychology
- Podiatry
- Health appliances
- Ambulance cover
- Travel and accommodation

Are there any restrictions?

- Waiting periods of up to 2 months may apply in order to receive speech therapy services.
- The speech pathologist must be approved by the health fund provider.
- Please review policies on pre-existing conditions.



Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at www.hba.com.au
- Phone them on 131 243

Central West Health Cover

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Cover	Monthly Premiums
	Family
Extras cover	\$137.30*

*Note this amount is for extras cover and does not include hospital cover.

What does this entitle me to receive?

Speech Therapy Services	Years of membership	
	Less than 2 years	More than 2 years
Initial visit	\$40.00	\$45.00
Subsequent visits	\$22.00-\$44.00	\$22.00-\$44.00
Limit per calendar year	\$500	\$650

What other services are available?

- Home Nursing
- Acupuncture
- Dental
- Optical
- Orthoptics
- Physiotherapy
- Chiropractic
- Osteopathy
- Occupational Therapy
- Pharmacy
- Dietary
- Psychology
- Podiatry
- Health appliances
- Ambulance cover

Are there any restrictions?

- Waiting periods of up to 2 months may apply in order to receive speech therapy services.
- Amount for speech therapy services is combined with orthoptics.
- The speech pathologist must be approved by the health fund provider.
- Please review policies on pre-existing conditions.



Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at centralwesthealth.com.au
- Phone them on 133 206
- Email welcome@centralwesthealth.com.au

MBF

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Standard hospital cover + extras	Fortnightly Premiums
	Family
Silver extras	\$144.15
Gold extras	\$171.10
Platinum extras	\$193.25

What does this entitle me to receive?

- Amount per calendar year increases with length of membership:

Year 1: \$400.00	Year 4: \$640.00
Year 2: \$480.00	Year 5: \$720.00
Year 3: \$560.00	Year 6+: \$800.00

Speech Therapy Services	Type of cover		
	Platinum extras	Gold extras	Silver extras
Initial visit	\$56	\$47	\$25
Subsequent visits	\$29	\$24	\$17
Group visits	\$11	\$10	\$9
Limit per calendar year	\$500	\$400	\$400

What other services are available with extras?

- Emergency ambulance
- General dental
- Optical
- Physiotherapy
- Chiropractic
- Osteopathy
- Pharmacy
- Natural therapies

Are there any restrictions?

- Waiting periods of up to 2 months may apply in order to receive speech therapy services.
- The speech pathologist must be approved by the health fund provider.
- Please review policies on pre-existing conditions.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website www.mbf.com.au
- Phone them on 131 137



Health Partners

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Cover	Monthly Premiums	
	Single parent	Family
Gold extras	\$139.63*	\$146.95*
National extras	\$134.04*	\$141.19*

*Note this amount is for extras cover and does not include hospital cover.

What does this entitle me to receive?

- Annual limit will increase to \$600 per person after 5 years of continuous membership.

Speech Therapy Services	Type of cover	
	Gold extras	National extras
Initial visit	\$75.00	\$75.00
Subsequent visits/ group visits	\$45.00 \$15.00	\$45.00 \$15.00
Limit per calendar year	\$400	\$400

What other services are available?

- Dental
- Orthodontic
- Optical
- Chiropractic
- Osteopathic
- Podiatry
- Eye Therapy
- Occupation Therapy
- Orthotics
- Pharmacy
- Dietary
- Ambulance Cover
- Physiotherapy
- Naturopathy
- Psychology
- Apparatus benefits
- Health Management

Are there any restrictions?

- Waiting periods of up to 2 months may apply in order to receive speech therapy services.
- The speech pathologist must be approved by the health fund provider.
- Please review policies on pre-existing conditions.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at www.healthpartners.com.au
- Phone them on 1300 113 113



Health Insurance Fund of Australia

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Cover	Monthly Premiums	
	Single parent	Family
Super extras	\$85.40*	\$85.35*
Premium extras	\$107.95*	\$107.95*

*Note this amount is for extras cover and does not include hospital cover.

What does this entitle me to receive?

- Limit per year increases after 5 years of membership.

Speech Therapy Services	Type of cover	
	Super extras	Premium extras
Initial visit	\$75.00	\$75.00
Subsequent visits	\$45.00	\$45.00
Limit per calendar year (up to 5 years membership)	\$900	\$1200
(Over 5 years membership)	\$1100	\$1500

What other services are available?

- Dental
- Orthodontic
- Optical
- Chiropractic
- Osteopathic
- Podiatry
- Eye therapy
- Occupation therapy
- Orthotics
- Pharmacy
- Dietary
- Ambulance cover
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology
- Hearing aids
- Prostheses
- Complimentary therapies

Are there any restrictions?

- Waiting periods of up to 2 months may apply in order to receive speech therapy services.
- The speech pathologist must be approved by the health fund provider.
- Please review policies on pre-existing conditions.
- Amount for speech therapy services is combined with physiotherapy, occupational therapy and orthoptic services.



Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at www.hif.com.au
- Phone them on 1300 13 40 60

Credit Union Australia Health Insurance

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Cover	Monthly Premiums	
	Single parent	Family
Silver extras	\$55.04*	\$55.04*
Gold extras	\$99.40*	\$99.40*

*Note this amount is for extras cover and does not include hospital cover.

What does this entitle me to receive?

Speech Therapy Services	Type of cover	
	Silver extras	Gold extras
Initial visit	\$68.00	\$80.00
Subsequent visits	\$33.00	\$38.00
Limit per calendar year	\$250	\$500

What other services are available?

- Dental
- Travel expenses
- Pharmaceutical
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology
- Podiatry
- Eye therapy
- Dietetics
- Occupational therapy
- Health management programs
- Ambulance cover
- Natural therapies

Are there any restrictions?

- Waiting periods of up to 2 months may apply in order to receive speech therapy services.
- The speech pathologist must be approved by the health fund provider.
- Please review policies on pre-existing conditions.
- Amount for speech therapy services are combined with, occupational therapy, dietetics, podiatry and orthoptic services.



**Up to
\$500
per year**

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at www.cua.com.au
- Phone them on 1300 499 260

GMF

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Cover	Weekly Premiums
Complete Necessities cover	\$11.45*

**Note this amount is for extras cover and does not include hospital cover.*

What does this entitle me to receive?

Speech Therapy Services	Type of cover
	Complete Necessities
Initial visit	\$52.00
Subsequent visits	\$39.00
Limit per calendar year	\$650

What other services are available?

- Dental
- Optical
- Chiropractic
- Podiatry
- Eye therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Orthoptics
- Pharmacy
- Dietary
- Ambulance cover
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology
- Hearing aids
- Audiology
- Exercise physiology
- Natural therapies

Are there any restrictions?

- Waiting periods of up to 2 months may apply in order to receive speech therapy services.
- Amount includes orthoptic services and speech therapy services.
- The speech pathologist must be approved by the health fund provider.
- Please review policies on pre-existing conditions.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at: **www.gmfhealth.com.au**
- Phone them on 1300 653 099



**Up to
\$650
per year**

Australian Health Management

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Cover	Monthly Premiums
Family cover	\$119.35*
Super cover	\$83.05*

*Note this amount is for extras cover and does not include hospital cover.

What does this entitle me to receive?

Speech Therapy Services	Type of cover	
	Family cover	Super cover
Initial visit	\$50.00	\$60.00
Subsequent visits	\$26.00	\$30.00
Limit per calendar year	\$250-\$300	\$300-\$400

What other services are available?

- Dental
- Optical
- Chiropractic
- Podiatry
- Eye therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Orthoptics
- Pharmacy
- Dietary
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology
- Hearing aids
- Audiology
- Health improvement
- Natural therapies

Are there any restrictions?

- Waiting periods have been removed for extras cover.
- The speech pathologist must be approved by the health fund provider.
- Amount for services is combined with occupational therapy, psychology, podiatry and eye therapy.
- One initial consultation per person per therapy per financial year.
- Please review policies on pre-existing conditions.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at www.ahm.com.au
- Phone them on 134 246



Up to
\$400
per year

HBF

What cover is available? What are the premiums?

Cover	Weekly Premiums
Essentials standard	\$6.75*
Extra essentials	\$9.53*
Premium essentials	\$15.22*

*Note this amount is for extras cover and does not include hospital cover.

What does this entitle me to receive?

Speech Therapy Services	Type of cover		
	Essentials standard	Extra essentials	Premium essentials
Initial visit	\$59-\$74	\$75-\$100	\$97-\$122
Subsequent visits/ Group sessions	\$22-\$44 \$8.00	\$30-\$50 \$10.00	\$36-\$72 \$12.00
Limit per calendar year (Less than 3 years)	\$500	\$600	\$1000
(More than 3 years)	\$800	\$900	\$1400

What other services are available?

- Dental
- Optical
- Chiropractic
- Podiatry
- Eye therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Orthoptics
- Pharmacy
- Dietary
- Ambulance cover
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology
- Audiology
- Osteopathy
- Natural therapies

Are there any restrictions?

- Waiting periods of up to 2 months may apply in order to receive speech therapy services.
- The speech pathologist must be approved by the health fund provider.
- Please review policies on pre-existing conditions.

Where can I go if I need further information?

- Visit their website at www.hbf.com.au
- Phone them on 133 423



Service Provider Funding Sources



Factors to consider when choosing a funding source:

- Eligibility – is your organisation eligible to apply?
- Does your request fit the funding provider's aims & criteria?
- Maximum amount funded – are you asking for amount within this limit?
- Recurrent costs – are these covered by the funding source?
- Due dates are non-negotiable - is the timeframe achievable for you?

Why are grant requests made?

Grants are generally made for:

- capital expenditure and fixed assets
 - equipment used in research
 - purchase of property / buildings /accommodation
 - office equipment and furnishings
 - specialised equipment
 - storage facilities
 - upgrade and refurbish facilities
- pilot projects
- community education / training
- community workshops

Grants are generally NOT made for:

- Administration and operating expenses such as rental, stationery, postage or insurance
- Equipment requiring regular replacement
- Loan repayments
- Projects started or completed by the time grant funds are approved
- Research projects (except research funding)
- Sponsorship
- Uniforms
- Contingencies



Useful links and resources for grants and funding sources:

1. The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)

- Go to the FaHCSIA website:
www.fahcsia.gov.au/grantsfunding/currentfunding

2. Queensland Government Grants Wizard

- This site provides a variety of ways to find Queensland government grants. Simply answer a few quick questions in order for the grant wizard to find Queensland government grants that match your criteria.
- Unless otherwise specified, only Australian citizens or permanent residents are eligible for these grants.
- Submitting a grant proposal does not guarantee that you will be successful in gaining funding.
- The grant wizard can be accessed via:
www.smartservice.qld.gov.au/services/grants

3. Easy Grants Newsletter and Database

- This is an online database and monthly email newsletter which provides the latest news and recurring federal and state government, philanthropic and corporate grants.
- Special email bulletins are sent for important grants.
- Subscription is \$55 for not-for-profit groups and schools and \$330 for Government organisations, private businesses and individuals.
- Access to the online database is provided at no cost free. Go to
www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/grant_main.jsp

4. Grants LINK directory

- The Grants LINK directory has information about federal, state and local government funding programs that can help you develop solutions to local and national problems, fund ideas and initiatives and obtain assistance in times of hardship.
- Grants LINK is an information directory only and does not provide individual advice about grants or assistance with these.
- Visit the Grants LINK website on: **www.grantslink.gov.au**
- Call 1800 026 222 for enquiries.

5. Grant Search Register

- The Grant Search Register is a central source of information for anyone seeking an Australian grant.
- Included are grants for individuals, groups, non-for-profit organisations, businesses, child-care workers, medical researchers, international students and more.
- Over 2800 entries are listed and described, giving purpose, eligibility criteria, funding amounts and other vital information.
- Comprehensive subject and grant name indexes enable the user to quickly locate available funding sources throughout Australia.
- Go to the Grant Search Register website:
www.grantsearch.com.au/book.html
- Membership can be purchased online for the following fees:
 - o 7 days - \$32.95
 - o 1 month - \$54.95
 - o 1 year - \$439.95

Want more?

Visit the Australian Parliamentary Library for some more handy links

www.aph.gov.au/library/intguide/sp/spgrants.htm#commonwealth



[Social Policy Resources](#)

A Guide to Community Grants

The following guide provides:

- Links to selected sources of [Commonwealth](#), [State](#) and [Territory](#) financial assistance to community groups.
- A selection of links to [non-government organisations](#) which provide community grants.
- Links to [commercial services](#) providing grant information via subscription.

The guide does not include links to scholarships, fellowships or research grants.

What Can I Do to Help?



What is lobbying?

As a parent, does the lack of funding choices for your child frustrate or anger you?

Lobbying is working to influence and persuade public officials to take a particular action. For example, parents or carers of children with disabilities may lobby for governments to take action on behalf of people with disabilities. Everyone has the right to make their thoughts on public issues known to their representatives at federal, state and local government levels. If you believe your child should have greater access to the therapy and educational services that would help your child achieve his/her full potential, you can tell your government.

You can communicate with your local members of government through writing a letter, email, by phone, or in person. One of the most powerful ways that you can lobby as a parent is to share your story. Your experiences will resonate with others and help to persuade. You can also show your support by registering with existing campaigns (see page 61). Parents in the past have lobbied to access funding; now you can do this too in order to increase funding for your child and others.

"You've developed the strength of a draft horse while holding onto the delicacy of a daffodil... you are the mother, advocate and protector of a child with a disability."

-Lori Borgman

But I am only one person?



Many people think that they **can't** make a difference to large organisations like governments. In fact, one person can be the difference. All you need to do is to take the first step – make a phone call, write a letter or email, get in touch with a friend going through the same situation – **and soon you'll find that there are many others who are seeking the same solutions, all waiting for the chance to make their voice heard.**

"We must be the change we wish to see"

-Gandhi

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Australians need a no fault insurance scheme for everyone who has, or acquires, a significant disability. It is clear that Australia's fractured under-resourced disability support systems need an overhaul. Please show your support for a national disability insurance scheme by going to the website and taking action - emailing your local member of parliament (MP), visiting your MP, signing the petition or spreading the word amongst family and friends. The mission is to convince the Australian government to implement a national disability insurance scheme which will protect all Australians.



Every Australian Counts is the campaign for the introduction of a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The NDIS will revolutionise the way people with a disability, their families and carers are supported in this country. The NDIS will be a new support system for people with a disability, their families and carers. It will transform the way services are funded and delivered, ensuring people are better supported and enabling them to have greater choice and control.

Over the next few months the Productivity Commission will report to the Government on the findings of its inquiry into a long-term disability care and support scheme. We need every Australian to stand up and say that people with a disability, their families and carers in this country deserve **better and that it's time for change. We need every Australian to say that** people with a disability, their families and carers are Australians too, and that their hopes and dreams count. That they are part of our community, and that they count.

We need to show the government that there is widespread community support for change – and that the time for action has come.



Why do we need the NDIS?

- The support system for people with a disability, their families and carers is in crisis. People with a disability, their families and carers want to participate in the social, economic, and cultural life of the nation. However, there are many barriers that limit their full inclusion. These are a lack of support and services which means that families are primarily responsible for meeting the needs of their family member with a disability. This creates additional physical, emotional and financial stress.
- The current situation is inequitable – people receive different support depending on how, when and where their disability was acquired.
- The number of people with a disability is increasing and the number of people willing and able to provide unpaid care is falling. This means the cost to government is expected to escalate dramatically.
- **The NDIS would provide people with a disability, their families and carers with the regular care, support, therapy and equipment they need.** As a Medicare-type scheme, it would provide a secure and consistent pool of funds for these services and support.
- It would be fair, efficient and effective. It would focus on early intervention and delivering those supports which produce the best long term outcomes. It would maximise opportunities for independence, participation and productivity. It would be individualised and person-centred. Support would be based on the choices of the person with a disability and their family.
- The scheme would reframe support as an investment rather than charity. Timely interventions, appropriate aids and equipment, training and development would become investment in individual capacity rather than welfare.
- **All Australians would benefit from this scheme because disability can affect anyone, anytime.** Everyone will benefit from building a more inclusive, more diverse community.



Where can I go to find further information?

- Go to their website to find out how the NDIS will help people with disabilities at home and at work, and the ways it will help children, families and students.
- You can support the campaign by taking action at:



www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au

- Check out the NDIS Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/everyaustraliancounts
- Like the Better Start for ALL Children with a disability campaign on Facebook: **www.facebook.com/www.betterstartforall.org**
- Contact your MP and make an appointment. Phone your MP's electorate office and explain that you'd like to meet with your local Member to talk about why a National Disability Insurance Scheme is so important to you.

**We need your
support to
make the
NDIS a reality!**



Glossary

Aboriginal health worker: health worker for Indigenous Australians.

Acupuncture: the trained use of needles to relieve pain.

Allied health professional: all health professionals other than medicine, nursing and dentistry.

Affiliate: A related or connected person.

Apparatus benefits: benefits paid for a medical device.

Audiologist: specialises in hearing disorders.

Autism advisor: provides support and information to parents of children with autism.

Blood-glucose monitoring: a way of testing the amount of sugar in the blood.

Chiropractor: an alternative therapy specialising in disorders of muscles and bones.

Complementary therapies: any form of alternative medicine.

Diabetes educator: teaches people how to manage their diabetes condition.

Dietitian: specialises in proper nutrition.

Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) surgeon or Otolaryngologist: specialises in ear, nose, throat, neck and head disorders.

Exercise physiologist: specialises in physical exercise.

Extremity pump: a compression device to reduce fluid retention in the limbs.

Financial year: starts on July 1st and finishes on June 30th the following year.

Foot orthotics: shoe insert for supporting the feet.

GP: General Practitioner; family doctor.

Homeopathy: a form of alternative holistic medicine.

Hydrotherapy: the use of water to treat and relieve pain.

Intervention: treatment.

Lobbying: To influence or persuade public officials to take desired actions.

Multidisciplinary practice: different health professionals work together as a team.

Music therapist: uses music to help improve the health of clients.

Myotherapist: specialises in the management of pain in the muscles and bones.

Naturopathy: a form of alternative holistic medicine.

Nebuliser: a device for inhaling medicine (eg. Asthma medication).

Neurologist: specialises in disorders of the nervous system.

Occupational therapist: specialises in helping people manage their activities of daily living.

Ophthalmologist: specialises in disorders of the eye.

Orthopaedic appliances: a device to support and stabilise.

Osteopath: specialises in holistic management of disorders of the muscles and bones.

Paediatrician: specialises in the medical care of infants, children, and adolescents.

PBS pharmaceuticals: medicine approved by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Physiotherapist: specialises in physical movement and coordination.

Podiatrist: specialises in disorders of the foot, ankle, and lower leg.

Pre-existing condition: a medical condition you had before joining the program.

Premium: The amount paid to the health insurer in periodic installments.

Prosthesis: an artificial device which replaces which replaces a missing body part.

Psychologist: specialises in mind, thought, feeling, and behaviour.

Rebate: A return of part of the original payment for a service.

Respite care: short-term temporary relief for carers of people with disabilities.

Speech pathologist: specialises in speech and language disorders.





**THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND**
AUSTRALIA

Developed by 4th Year Speech Pathology
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Senior Speech Pathologist at Max's House.
University of Queensland, October 2011.

Available at:

<http://www.maxshouse.com.au/resources.htm>

