

 Queensland Government	CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICE
Health Service District	Insert location and contact details

RESOURCE MANUAL

RESOURCE MANUAL

This resource provides information that will help you access services other than the Child Development Service. Included in this package are:

1. Details on Chronic Disease Individual Allied Health Services under Medicare
2. Details on Better Access to Allied Mental Health Services through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) program
3. Details on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Allied Health Services
4. Details on the Helping Children with Autism package
5. Details on Better Start for Children with a Disability—Early Intervention
6. Details on other services for children with disabilities
7. Details on local service providers
8. Hearing Tests
9. Vision Tests
10. Auditory Processing
11. Toileting Information

Chronic Disease Individual Allied Health Services under Medicare

For patients with a chronic medical condition and complex care needs (previously known as Enhanced Primary Care). Eligible clients referred by their General Practitioner (GP) to Allied Health Professionals (e.g. Speech Pathologists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, Dieticians, Psychologists) may be entitled to some Medicare rebate.

To be eligible, patients must have complex chronic conditions and be managed by their doctors under a **GP Management Plan and Team Care Arrangements**. The GP refers to allied health services using the appropriate referral form. Patients must ensure that therapists are registered with Medicare to provide this service.

Most children with complex developmental difficulties (e.g. children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), significant language delay or global developmental difficulty) would be eligible for this benefit. They must have complex multidisciplinary care needs requiring care from a General Practitioner and at least two other healthcare providers. These may include Paediatricians and Allied Health Professionals.

Patients with this type of multidisciplinary care plan will qualify for a Medicare Rebate for up to five consultations per calendar year. (Note, however, that allied health providers set their own fees). Any gap in costs incurred by the patient will count towards the Medicare Safety net.

To access this funding, make an appointment to see your GP and ask him/her to complete the necessary form: Referral Form for Individual Allied Health Services under Medicare for patients with a chronic medical condition and complex care needs.

For more information on these services contact: Medicare Australia
Ph: 132 011

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Chronic+Disease+Allied+Health+Individual+Services>

Better Access to Allied Mental Health Services through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Program

As part of this program, Medicare rebates are available for up to 12 individual and/or 12 group allied mental health services (clinical psychologists, psychologists, social workers and occupational therapists) per calendar year to patients with an assessed mental disorder who are referred by:

- A medical practitioner managing the patient under a GP Mental Health Care Plan or under a psychiatrist assessment and management plan or
- A psychiatrist or paediatrician.

Rebates vary depending on which allied mental health professional is accessed. Any gap in costs incurred by the patient will count towards the Medicare Safety net.

Allied mental health services under this program include psychological assessment and therapy provided by eligible clinical psychologists, and focussed psychological strategies provided by eligible psychologists, social workers and occupational therapists.

The program also promotes greater interaction between medical practitioners and allied mental health professionals, with GPs having greater scope to shape and direct the treatment of mental disorders through the new GP Mental Health Care Plan item.

Mental disorder is a term used to describe a range of clinically diagnosable disorders that significantly impact on a person's emotions, thoughts, social skills and decision-making. This includes patients with mental disorders arising from: anxiety disorder, adjustment disorder, Attention deficit disorder, depression, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and more.

To access this funding, make an appointment to see your GP, a psychiatrist or paediatrician and ask him/her to complete the necessary forms.

For more information on these services contact:

Medicare Australia
Ph: 132 011
www.health.gov.au

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Allied Health Services

General Practitioners are able to refer eligible patients to Allied Health Professionals (e.g. Speech Pathologists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, Dieticians and Psychologists) and be entitled to some Medicare rebate.

To be eligible the person must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. The doctor uses a "Referral form for follow-up allied health services under Medicare for people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent". Patients must ensure that therapists are registered with Medicare to provide this service.

Patients will qualify for a Medicare Rebate for up to five consultations per calendar year. This is in addition to the allied health services available under the **GP Management Plan and Team Care Arrangements**. Any gap in costs incurred by the patient will count towards the Medicare Safety net.

To access this funding, make an appointment to see your GP and ask him/her to complete the necessary forms.

For more information on these services contact:

Medicare Australia
Ph: 132 011
www.health.gov.au/mbsonline

Helping Children with Autism package

Under this package, all children aged under six years of age and who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and are not yet at school are eligible for up to \$12 000 (up to \$6 000 per financial year) to assist with the financial cost of accessing early intervention services. Families will choose the early intervention service that best suits their child from a panel of service providers currently being established by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). Families will need to visit an Autism Advisor prior to accessing service providers on the panel. Autism Advisors are located throughout Australia and provide advice, information and practical help to families following a diagnosis of ASD.

Additionally, children aged 13 years and under, with ASD or any other Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) will benefit from Medicare rebates for:

- Paediatricians and psychiatrists to diagnose and develop a treatment plan on referral from a GP
- Psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists to provide up to four services in total per child to help with the diagnosis and initial assessment of the child. Referral needs to be by the treating paediatrician or psychiatrist
- Psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapists to provide up to 20 early intervention treatment services following diagnosis. Referral needs to be by the treating paediatrician or psychiatrist.

Any gap in costs incurred by the patient will count towards the Medicare Safety net.

As part of this package the Australian Government is also spending money on more specialised child care centres and education to parents and professionals.

For more information on this package contact:

www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/serviceshelp_child_autism.htm

The Helping Children with Autism enquiry line on 1800 289 177 or email:

asd@fahcsia.gov.au

Other information: <http://www.earlydays.net.au/>

More information re Autism Advisor Program over....

Autism Advisor Program

Funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) under the Helping Children with Autism Package

The Autism Advisor Program is a component of the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) package (which also includes early intervention, playgroups and education and support for families and carers). The Program is managed by FaHCSIA, with the aim of ensuring that eligible families and carers have access to impartial, evidence based information and financial support.

The Program is being delivered in each State and Territory by suitably qualified organisations with experience in providing information and support services to families and carers of children aged 0-6 years with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). In Queensland, the Program is being delivered by Autism Queensland (AQ). The contact number for the Autism Advisor Program in QLD is **3273 0000**.

The key functions of the Autism Advisor Program are:

- To provide support and information about ASD to families/carers
- To provide information about all services that a family/carer could access
- To organise payment of the HCWA Early Intervention funding and the
- Regional and Remote funding (where eligible)

Support and information about ASD

A key role of the Autism Advisor Program is supporting the family/carer to gain a clear understanding of ASD as it relates to their child, through discussion and written information. The Advisors will also refer the family/carer to useful websites, books, journals and other resources.

Early Intervention funding

One of the most significant aspects of the assistance that the Autism Advisor Program provides to families/carers is access to the Early Intervention funding that is available through the HCWA package.

This funding is \$6000 per financial year for a maximum of 2 years and can only be used to pay for services from members of the Early Intervention Service Provider Panel — these are services that have been assessed and approved by FaHCSIA as meeting certain desirable criteria for effective early intervention for children with autism.

The Autism Advisors provide the only gateway to this funding, and do so by checking the child's eligibility for funding, entering the family's/carer's information onto the FaHCSIA database and then supplying the family or carer with the documentation they require. The family/carer take this documentation to the Early Intervention Service Provider Panel member of their choice and the fees for that service provider are then paid in part or fully by FaHCSIA up to a maximum of \$6000 over a year for up to two years. This funding is only eligible for children under 6 years of age.

Up to 35 per cent of a child's early intervention funding may be used to purchase resources, to a maximum of \$2,100 per financial year, or \$4,200 in total. Resources must have been assessed by an Early Intervention Panel Provider as being integral to the child's therapy.

Regional and Remote Payment

In addition, the Autism Advisor Program also facilitates the payment of the Regional and Remote Grant to eligible families. This is a one-off payment of \$2000 that goes to families living in areas of Queensland that qualify as Regional and Remote according to FaHCSIA criteria. Again, the Advisors provide the only portal to this funding, through entering the necessary data onto the FaHCSIA database and organising the payment to the families. This grant is to assist families to access services, e.g. for them to put towards travel to a service, home internet connection, books, computers, etc.

Information about other services

The role of the Advisors is to also provide comprehensive information about other services, which are not on the Early Intervention Service Provider Panel, that are also available in the family's/carer's area. Information will be supplied that is not only about autism-specific or disability-specific services, but also broader services that may assist the whole family (e.g. respite care, holiday programs, interest groups, parent support groups, etc.)

The medium for achieving these outcomes is a **Consultation** between an Autism Advisor and the parent/s or carer/s:

- This will take place at a central, community-based location (e.g. an AQ centre, a community centre, a school, a community agency office, etc.) or by telephone.
- During this Consultation, the AA will gain relevant information about the child and the family and then provide them with appropriate information about helpful services, support and resources.
- This information will be discussed at the Consultation and provided in written form.

- After the Consultation, the Advisor will enter the family's data onto the FaHCSIA online system which will verify the child's eligibility.
- The Advisor will then supply an official printout which will be forwarded to the family.
- The family takes this printout (known as a 'Letter of Introduction') to the Panel service provider of their choice.

To access the Autism Advisor Program, the child must be:

- 0–6 years
- Not yet at formal school (i.e. is not yet in Year One)
- Diagnosed, by a Paediatrician, psychiatrist or multi-disciplinary assessment team, with one of the following:
 1. Autism
 2. Autistic disorder
 3. Asperger syndrome
 4. Rett syndrome
 5. Childhood disintegrative disorder
 6. Pervasive developmental disorder—not otherwise specified (PDD–NOS)
- An Australian resident

To verify the child's eligibility for accessing the Autism Advisor Program and consequently, the Early Intervention funding, the Advisors need to be provided with:

- A copy of the child's birth certificate
- A copy of the letter of diagnosis / diagnostic form / diagnostic statement
- The child's Centrelink number
- A copy of a rates notice or utilities bill to confirm the residential address
- A copy of any parenting plan or court order

These documents can be brought to a face-to-face Consultation, but will need to be received prior to a telephone consultation. The contact number for the Autism Advisor Program in QLD is **3273 0000**.

For more information on this package contact:

www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/serviceshelp_child_autism.htm

The Helping Children with Autism enquiry line on 1800 289 177 or email:

asd@fahcsia.gov.au Other information: <http://www.earlydays.net.au/>

A Better Start for Children with a Disability—Early Intervention

As part of a 2010 election commitment, the Prime Minister announced the Better Start for Children with Disability initiative. This initiative will provide \$122 million over four years to make sure children with an eligible disability have access to intensive early intervention therapies and treatment from expert health professionals, similar to the Helping Children with Autism Program. Approximately 20,000 children diagnosed with sight and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and Fragile X syndrome will benefit from this measure.

The new Medicare arrangements and associated items will be implemented on 1 July 2011. Children receiving care under the initiative will be eligible for Medicare benefits for services provided by the participating health professionals from that date. Allied health services can be provided by eligible audiologists, occupational therapists, optometrists, orthoptists, physiotherapists, psychologists and speech pathologists.

Who will be affected by this Budget measure?

Children with an eligible disability will be able to access the Better Start for Children with Disability initiative. A Medicare benefit for the development of a treatment and management plan will be available for children under the age of 13. Medicare benefits will also be available for up to four allied health diagnostic services and for 20 relevant allied health services (in total) per child. These benefits will be available for children up to the age of 15, provided the treatment and management plan is in place before the age of 13.

Children with an eligible disability will benefit from having better access to early intervention services and therapies that are proven to help prepare them for school and lifelong learning. Eligible children will also have access to treatment programs tailored to their individual needs, including access to audiologists, occupational therapists, optometrists, orthoptists, physiotherapists, psychologists and speech pathologists.

Communication activities will be managed by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Education of health professionals on the Medicare component of this initiative will be managed by the Department of Health and Ageing. Information for health professionals will be available on Medicare Australia's website closer to the implementation date.

To receive Medicare funded services under the Better Start for Children with Disability initiative, eligible children must have a referral from a specialist, consultant physician or general practitioner to an eligible allied health professional. Children with an eligible disability need to have a treatment and management plan in place before the age of 13 to access up to four allied health diagnostic services and 20 relevant allied health services (in total) before the age of 15.

Orthoptists will need to be registered with Medicare Australia to be able to provide Medicare funded services.

If the Budget measure involves a payment, when/how will it be paid?

Medicare benefits will be payable for clinically relevant services when the requirements of item descriptor is met.

For additional information, please contact:

<http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/budget-2011/better-start.jsp>

Other Services for Children with Disabilities

Disability Services Qld

Regional Office - Greater Brisbane,

Level 1, 27 Peel Street, South Brisbane 4101

Phone: 07 3109 7007 (Business); 1800 177 120 (National)

Hours: Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

Disability Services Qld

Moreton

The George Thorne Centre

30 Thorne Street, Ipswich

Ph: 3280-1872

Disability Services Qld

Gold Coast

24 Tansey Street, Beenleigh

Ph: 3884 7001

Autism Early Intervention Unit, AEIOU

128/421 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley, State wide 4006

Phone: 07 3852 1700 (Business)

Hours: Phone to confirm hours of operation

Epilepsy Queensland Inc

Level 2, Gabba Towers, Woolloongabba 4102

Phone: 07 3435 5000 (Business); 1300 852 853 (National); 1300 852 853 (after hours)

Hours: Mon - Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm; Some support group meetings & workshops on weekends & evenings.

Early Childhood Intervention Australia

State wide

Phone: 07 3489 6366 (Business)

Hours: Please call for details

Down Syndrome Association Of Queensland Inc

282 Stafford Road, Stafford 4053

Phone: 07 3356 6655 (Business); 07 3356 6655 (After Hours)

Hours: Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm

Asperger Services Australia

Shops 4 And 5, 235 Zillmere Road, Zillmere 4034

Phone: 07 3865 2911 (Business); 0439 769 500 (After Hours); 0439 769 500 (Mobile)

Hours: Mon - Fri 9:30am - 12:30am

Xavier Children's Support Network

284 Pine Mountain Road, Mount Gravatt East 4122

Phone: 07 3216 8811 (Business)

Hours: Mon - Fri 8:30am - 5pm; No weekends or public holidays

Local Service Providers

Attach details of local private and other Queensland Health, government and non-government service providers including (but not limited to):

- Paediatricians
- Paediatric Occupational Therapists
- Paediatric Physiotherapists
- Paediatric Speech Pathologists
- Paediatric Psychologists
- Dietitians
- Social Workers (registered to provide service under the GP Management Plan and Team Care Arrangements),
- Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists
- Child Development Services
- Community Child Health Services (Child, Youth and Family Health Services)
- Child and Youth Mental Health Services
 - Infant Mental Health
- Department of Education & Training
 - ECDP/U
- Other

The following format is suggested:

Name	Address	Contact Details

Hearing Tests

AGENCY	REFERRAL PROCEDURE	COST	CONTACT DETAILS
Mater Audiology	Ask your GP to send a referral to the Mater Audiology Department	Free Waiting time 6-8 weeks	Raymond Terrace South Brisbane 4104 3840 8685
Australian Hearing	Priority: Only children with a proven hearing loss who require hearing aids. or who have any of the following risk factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent or sibling who have had a hearing loss from birth • Meningitis • Rubella during pregnancy Or if parent thinks that the child needs to wear a hearing aid	Free	Australian Hearing 2092 Logan Rd Mt Gravatt 3343 2955
Logan Hospital	Ask GP to fax a referral to the Logan Hospital Audiology Department.	Free (need current Medicare card)	Phone: 3299 8710 Fax: 3299 8280
A Tune - formerly Queensland Hearing	GP referral required if you wish to claim the rebate	Cost: \$195.00 (6months – 3,5 years) \$150.00 (3.5 – 9 years) \$50-\$60 rebate from Medicare	Queensland Hearing at Springwood Ph: 3290 0288 (other centres in the yellow pages)
University of Queensland Audiology Dept	Parents can refer directly. Testing is conducted by students under supervision by a qualified audiologist	Hearing Test - \$60 (all ages except babies) CAPD - \$180 (over 8 years only)	Clinic for Audiology and Speech Pathology, Dept of Speech Pathology, Level 7, Therapies Building The University of Queensland St Lucia 4072 3365 2077
Insert local services			

Vision Tests

Any **Optometrist**: full vision test, covered by Medicare, therefore free.

Ophthalmologists - (Medical Specialist): need referral from a doctor, for vision and concerns about the health of the eyes.

Auditory Processing

AGENCY	REFERRAL PROCEDURE	COST	CONTACT DETAILS
Mater Audiology Dept	Referral from GP is required for auditory processing and hearing assessments. No cost	Covered under Medicare. Offers assessment for children 7 years and over Waiting time 4 months for 0-3 yrs Over 4 approx 6-8 weeks	Audiology Department Mater Public Hospital Level 2 Raymond Terrace South Brisbane QLD 4101 Phone: 3840 8685 Fax: 3840 1509
Qld Hearing	Need a referral letter from GP or Medical Officer Parent can refer directly at a higher cost	\$510.00 without referral \$209.00 is the rebate from Medicare if you have referral 7 Years and over	3 rd Floor 135 Wickham Terrace Phone: 3832 0471 Located in BMM Place building
Qld Hearing Aids and Audiological Services Unit	Need a referral letter from GP or Medical Officer	\$495.00 \$209.60 Medicare Rebate Waiting List: 2 weeks (Children are tested in the morning and it takes 2 hours)	IBM Centre, 2 nd Level 348 Edward Street Cnr Edward Street & Wickham Terrace BRISBANE QLD 4000 TELEPHONE: 3220 3522 FAX: 3220 3533
University of Queensland Department of Speech and Hearing	Parents can refer directly March to October	8 years old and above With uni student \$180 With audiologist \$240	St Lucia TELEPHONE: 3365 2077
Insert local services			

Toileting Information

Blue Care: offer phone advice (only) to parents of children under 6 years of age and face-to-face consultation with children who are aged 6 years and older. Unless family have a Healthcare Card or Disability Card, there is a fee for service as follows:

- Dry Bed program - \$180 for 3 visits and then \$20/visit thereafter
- Constipation, etc - \$60 initial visit and then \$20/visit thereafter.

They have a Central Intake Number: (07) 3722 1740 and will accept referrals from family, GP, CDS.

You may also contact the National Continence Helpline (freecall) on 1800 330 066 for information on toileting and bedwetting in children. continence.org.au/pages/national-continence-helpline.html

Add contact details for local private and other Queensland Health, government and non-government service providers as follows.

AGENCY	REFERRAL PROCEDURE	COST	CONTACT DETAILS