



## Payment and funding information

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We do our best to keep our costs to an absolute minimum; however as this is a private service it is important to be aware of what funding and payment options are available. This package is designed to help answer some commonly asked questions.

### Payment plans

Some families find that it assists them to develop a payment plan (particularly where there are complex funding arrangements). Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss what your options are.

### How to pay

We accept payment from the following methods:

- Cash
- Cheque
- Direct Debit
- EFTPOS (*in person or over the phone*)
- Funding bodies such as FahCSIA, Medicare, insurance companies, etc.

### Private Health Funds

Each private health fund provides a different level of cover. Please contact your private health fund to discuss your entitlements. OCC Therapy is listed with most funds.

# Medicare Rebates

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Your child may be eligible to receive a Medicare rebate when they access services through OCC Therapy. Some common questions are answered below:

<b>Do you need a referral from your GP/paediatrician to use the Medicare rebates?</b>	Yes you do. We cannot process your claim without one.
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<b>Can I claim the gap on my private health fund?</b>	No you cannot. You need to choose whether you will claim through Medicare or private health funds. You can use your Medicare sessions and then use private health funds for remaining sessions.
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<b>Can you process our Medicare payment in the clinic or over the phone?</b>	Yes we can, and this enables you to pay the gap only.
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<b>Do you speak with our GP?</b>	Yes, at the first and final sessions, your therapist must report back to the GP.
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<b>Out of pocket expenses</b>	The gap must be paid for by the family, however any out of pocket costs will count toward the Medicare safety net for that family. You cannot claim the gap through your private health fund.
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## Enhanced Primary Care Programme (EPC) or Chronic Disease Management

### Who is eligible?

- Children who have complex and chronic health needs
- Needing support from at least three health care providers (e.g. GP, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy)
- Children who have a GP management plan and Team Care Arrangements in place (as determined by your GP)

### What do you receive?

A person can claim a maximum of 5 allied health and dental care services in each 12 month period. The rebate for each session is \$50.05. These can only be used for *individual services*.

### Item numbers

- Occupational Therapy: 10958
- Physiotherapy: 10960

## Helping Children with Autism

### Who is eligible?

Assessment: Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (including Asperger's Syndrome and Pervasive Developmental Delay) under 13 years of age, for the purposes of assisting with diagnosis

Intervention: Children with a pervasive developmental disorder (including ASD) aged under 15 years

### What do you receive?

Assessment: Up to 4 assessment sessions, shared between a range of health professionals as discussed with your child's paediatrician.

Intervention: A maximum of 20 sessions *in total until 15 years of age*, across all services. These may be used for individual sessions only.

### Item numbers

- Occupational therapy assessment: 82010 \$70.65
- Occupational therapy sessions: 82025 \$71.95

## Better Start for Children with Disabilities

This program will be similar to the Helping Children with Autism plan, however children with Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Fragile X, Hearing impairment or Visual impairment will be eligible. This program is due for release in July 2011.

Children may access services from allied health professionals including psychologists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, audiologists, optometrists and orthoptists.

### Eligibility criteria:

- Hearing impairment: children will be eligible if they have a hearing loss of 40 decibels or greater in the better ear, across 4 frequencies (including children with permanent conductive hearing loss and auditory neuropathy)
- Sight impairment: children will be eligible if they have 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 (therefore application of a threshold is not necessary).
- Down syndrome: all children with a confirmed diagnosis of Down syndrome, including those with mosaic Down syndrome.
- Fragile X syndrome: all children with a confirmed diagnosis of Fragile X syndrome with full mutation.
- Cerebral palsy: all children with a confirmed diagnosis of cerebral palsy.

## Better Access for Mental Health

### Who is eligible?

At OCC Therapy, this may include support for children and their families for reasons such as:

- Anxiety
- Sleep and eating difficulties
- Hyperkinetic (attention deficit) disorder
- Enuresis/encopresis (toileting difficulties)

### What do you receive?

A person can have a maximum of 12 therapy sessions *per calendar year* for the provision of focused psychological strategies.

We work in alliance with a psychologist, providing focused psychological strategies including:

1. Education for parents and the children/adolescents
2. Behavioural intervention and modification
3. Activity scheduling
4. Attention regulation
5. Problem solving skills training
6. Cognitive awareness

### What is the item number?

- |                         |       |         |           |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|-----------|
| • Occupational therapy: | 80125 | \$50.05 | 20-50mins |
|                         | 80135 | \$70.65 | 50mins+   |

## Follow Up Allied Health

### Who is eligible?

People of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent (with a referral from their GP) are eligible for this plan. This is *in addition to the 5 Enhanced Primary Care Plan sessions*.

### What do you receive?

A person can have a maximum of 5 allied health sessions *each calendar year*. The Medicare rebate for these services is \$50.90 per session. These can only be used for *individual services*.

### What is the item number?

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|-------------------------|-------|
| • Occupational therapy: | 81330 |
| • Physiotherapy:        | 81335 |

# Government funding initiatives

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## FahCSIA Autism Early Intervention Initiative

### Who is eligible?

Children aged 0-7 years who have been diagnosed with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Pervasive Developmental Delay). To be eligible for the early intervention funding package a child must have been seen by an Autism Advisor and deemed eligible to access the program *before their sixth birthday*.

### What do you receive?

- The \$12,000 in funding under the early intervention component can be used until the child's seventh birthday to a maximum of \$6,000 per financial year.
- 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 be discussed in full with the therapist and the family as being integral to the child's therapy program.
- Funding can be used for assessment, individual therapy, groups, resources and meetings.

### How do I access this funding?

- You must receive a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder by your child's paediatrician
- Contact Autism Queensland to make an appointment with an Autism Advisor on 1800 428 847 or (07) 3273 0000. At this appointment the child's needs are discussed, appropriate service providers identified, and the child is registered for the early intervention initiative.
- Please bring your "Letter of Introduction" to your child's appointment to commence using the funding.
- You have the choice as to what services you use the funding for, and whether or not you would like to pay for some services privately if funding runs out

## FahCSIA Better Start funding

This program will be similar to the FahCSIA Autism Early Intervention initiative, however children with Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Fragile X, Hearing impairment or Visual impairment will be eligible. This program is due for release in July 2011.

## Carer Payment and Allowance

Parents and carers of children with a disability may be eligible for Australian Government financial assistance through Carer Payment and Carer Allowance.

You may be eligible for Carer Payment (caring for a child under 16 years) if you provide constant care (greater than 14 hours of additional care beyond that of a typically developing child) for:

- A single child under 16 years of age with a severe disability or a severe medical condition
- 2-4 children under 16 years of age with a disability or medical condition whose combined care needs are significant
- 1-2 children and an adult who each have a disability or medical condition
- Short term or episodic basis care for 3-6 months for short term significant care

Additional eligibility criteria exist (such as income and asset testing), however single parents may receive \$670.90 per fortnight, and couples may receive \$505.70 each per fortnight.

Carer Allowance (caring for a child under 16 years) is a supplementary payment that may be available if you are a parent or carer who provides additional care and attention on a daily basis for a child aged under 16 years with a physical, intellectual or psychiatric disability or medical condition. You may receive either:

- a fortnightly payment of \$110 plus a Health Care Card for the child, or
- a Health Care Card for the child. (*which of these you receive depends on the level of functional disability of the child*)

If you are receiving a Carer Allowance (caring for a child under 16 years) payment on 1 July each year, you are also paid an annual:

- Child Disability Assistance payment of up to \$1,000 to help you with the costs of caring for a child with a disability, and
- Carer Supplement of up to \$600 for each child in your care who qualifies you for Carer Allowance

Call Centrelink on 13 27 17 or visit their website for further information.

## Other support services

**Carers Australia**

1800 242 636

[www.carersaustralia.com.au](http://www.carersaustralia.com.au)

**Disability and Community Care**

1800 177 120

**Services (Department of**

<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/>

**Communities, Qld Government)**