



**THE HON BILL SHORTEN MP
MINISTER FOR THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME
MINISTER FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES
MEMBER FOR MARIBYRNONG**

Ref: MC23-002203

Ms Susan Templeman MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions

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Dear Ms ~~Templeman~~,

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 November 2022, received on the 25 July 2023 regarding House of Representatives Petition EN4324, requesting to reinstate Play Therapy on the list of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funded therapeutic supports. I am sorry for a technical issue by the House of Representatives that caused the delayed response.

In recent updates to the NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits (NDIS PAPL) there were some revisions made to the support items for Early Childhood Supports (for participants younger than 7) and Therapy Supports (for participants 7 or older).

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) sets out the basis for these changes in section 6.8 of the 2021-22 Annual Pricing Review (APL), which can be found on the NDIS website at www.ndis.gov.au/providers/pricing-arrangements/making-pricing-decisions/pricing-review-archive#pricing-review-documents-2021-22

The APL proposed the following recommendations to support greater clarity about the types of professionals able to claim for therapy support and early childhood support items:

- Recommendation 22 - To provide greater clarity to participants, the NDIA should amend the NDIS PAPL to include clear definitions of the types of therapists that are able to make claims for therapy support items, including the qualifying criteria for each type of therapist as set out in this report.
- Recommendation 23 - To provide greater clarity to participants, the NDIA should create separate support items for each type of therapist in both the early childhood supports and therapy sections of the NDIS PAPL.

Delivering on the recommendations of the APL, the updates made to the NDIS PAPL describe the types of professionals that can deliver supports, in line with the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Commission's requirements for Early Childhood Supports and for Therapy Supports.

The professionals who can deliver supports are listed in the NDIS PAPL 2023-24 and can be found on the NDIS website at www.ndis.gov.au/providers/pricing-arrangements. Music Therapist is included in the list for Therapy Supports, but not in Early Childhood Supports. Play Therapist is not included in either list. However, there is provision for a person who is not one of the types of professionals specifically listed in NDIS PAPL to be able to deliver supports so long as they meet the requirements set out under Early Childhood Supports – Other Professional, or Therapy Supports – Other Professional. The types of professionals who can deliver supports include:

- Early Childhood Supports – Other Professional - A person who is not one of the types of professionals listed but who has a Bachelor's degree or higher in their relevant area and holds current registration or membership with their relevant registration and or professional body. It is expected that the person delivers supports in line with the NDIS Commission's NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators for Early Childhood Supports.
- Therapy Supports - Other Professional – A person who is not one of the types of professionals listed but who the provider considers to be an appropriate professional to deliver therapeutic supports in line with the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Commission's requirements for the Therapeutic Supports Registration Group.

The NDIS PAPL does not describe what type of therapy can or cannot be delivered from these professionals as part of these supports. The NDIS provides funding for Early Childhood Supports or Therapy Supports to participants based on their individual support needs. Decisions about including funded supports in an NDIS plan are determined by the support needs of the NDIS participant and they are set out in the plan developed with them. The type of support depends on the needs of the child with developmental delay or disability and the preferences of their family about how these supports are delivered and who delivers them.

The NDIS Commission provides information, resources and support to NDIS providers about how to meet their obligations under the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* when delivering support services to NDIS participants.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Shorten MP

14/9/2023