



2.5 Eligibility and Access

Policy

PlayAbility provides access to Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI), Therapeutic Support, Plan Management, Behaviour Support and Family Support services based on Government guidelines and Legislation specific to funded programs. ECEI, Therapeutic Support, Plan Management and Behaviour Support and Assistance with Social and Community Participation are delivered under the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) in line with the Practice Standards overseen by the Quality Safeguards Commission.

PlayAbility will prioritise vulnerable families including those in crisis, families with a child with a disability and/or families with multiple vulnerabilities. PlayAbility supports the rights of parents / carers to have an advocate present throughout the intake and Service agreement interviews.

PlayAbility is committed to providing all information, documents and forms to clients and their support network in a way that is appropriate to their preferred language or mode of communication. PlayAbility employees must be respectful of cultural and linguistic circumstances and sensitive to each person's circumstances in their communications. PlayAbility employees will ask clients and their support network their preferred language and mode of communication. The preferred method is to be used wherever possible and will be recorded in the participants' file to ensure that communication is consistent, effective and tailored to the participant. Wherever possible, explanation will be provided orally as well as being available in writing. PlayAbility will determine whether assistive technology, an interpreter or translator may be needed and ensure that that capability is available for every interaction with that person.

Procedure

Eligibility

ECEI and Therapeutic Support

- The child has met access to the NDIS and is a current participant with a funded NDIS plan.
- The NDIS plan has Core support funding in the category of Improved Daily Living

Behaviour Support

- The child has met access to the NDIS and is a current participant with a funded NDIS plan.
- The NDIS plan has Capacity Building support funding in the category of Improved Relationships

Plan Management



- The child has met access to the NDIS and is a current participant with a funded NDIS plan.
- The NDIS plan has Capacity Building support funding in the category of Improved Life Choices

Assistance with Social and Community Participation

- The child has met access to the NDIS and is a current participant with a funded NDIS plan.
- The NDIS plan has Core support funding in the category of Assistance with Social and Community Participation

Access

- PlayAbility will contact the participant's parents / carers within one week of receiving an enquiry or referral to begin the Intake process and arrange a time and place to meet. PlayAbility will support them to have an advocate present.
- PlayAbility to complete a Registration/Intake for Early Intervention Form (see Appendix 3) with the participants parents / carers to gather basic information about the child and their family and to:
 - Identify any potential risks in providing services to the participant
 - Identify any cultural values or beliefs they would like incorporated or respected in the provision of supports
- PlayAbility will inform parents / carers about access to services under the NDIS. This will include information about PlayAbility's roles as a Plan Management agency and as a provider of Behaviour Support, Therapeutic Support and ECEI; including the potential influences of early intervention in early childhood development, the Key worker model of service delivery, the trans-disciplinary approach and how we work in collaboration with other providers and agencies (such as schools and pre schools) to support the participant to meet their developmental goals.
- PlayAbility will read the following policies to the parents / carers and request their signatures to acknowledge their understanding.
 - Confidentiality and Privacy policy
 - Child Safety statement
 - Permission for the taking of photos
 - Rights, Inclusion, Feedback and Complaints policy
- PlayAbility will request the parents / carers fill in the membership form for PlayAbility to meet the requirements under its structure.
- PlayAbility will discuss the subsequent steps and processes needed to access NDIS funded supports and the options they may want to consider before our next meeting
 - The therapy type or specialist they would prefer
 - How much of the plan they would like to budget for with PlayAbility



- The long and short term goals they would like to prioritise
- How the role of Plan Management facilitates decision making around access to supports
- How Behaviour Support functions as an integrated approach to improve the wellbeing and interactions of participants, their family and support networks
- PlayAbility will arrange an appointment time to meet again with the parents / carers to negotiate the Service Agreement (see policy 2.6) and discuss the scheduling of services. PlayAbility will support them to have an advocate of their choosing present.

Waiting Lists

- On occasions there will be a waiting list to access Early Intervention Services.
- Families will be kept informed of their progression on the waiting list and where appropriate other alternatives will be suggested.
- Families will be kept informed of their progression through the NDIS Access Request and Pre Planning processes.
- Occasionally there will be the need to triage participants on the waiting list and this will be based on the vulnerability of the family/child and the level of need.

Family Support

There are various programs under the Family Support section:

- Supported Playgroups
- Indigenous Family Support; and
- Mobile Parenting Support Service.

Supported Playgroups

Strength based programs for children and their families, focusing on the importance of creating a world where children feel connected to their community and culture allowing each individual to create their world. These play sessions are run by qualified early childhood practitioners and family support workers, offering a range of different play experiences including story telling, music, arts & craft, excursions & community activities

Eligibility

- Open to all parents, carers of children aged 0-6 years in the Bega Valley Shire.

Priority Participants Include

- Indigenous families.



- Families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- The child has a development delay.
- The child/parent has a disability.
- The child has challenging behaviour.
- Low Social Economic Status (SES) family.
- Mental health issues for parents and/or children.
- Families who are socially isolated or disadvantaged.
- Grandparents or carers.
- Families with child protection issues or chronic mental health.
- Families who are homeless.
- Refugees.

Access

- Completion of a **PlayAbility Family Support Intake/Registration Form** (see Appendix 6).

Indigenous Family Support

These programs provide a range of services for Indigenous families across the region.

These include:

- Playgroups
- One to one family support.
- Workshops with parents/carers.
- Support in children's culture, learning and development.
- Home-visiting.
- Support to access other services.
- Transport assistance

Eligibility

- Families with an Indigenous child.
- Primary carers for Indigenous children.
- Extended Indigenous families.

Access

- Completion of a **PlayAbility Family Support Intake/Registration Form** (see Appendix 6).

Mobile Parenting Support Service (MPSS)

The MPSS offers a mobile toy resource library as well as advice and support to communities across the region. Parents and carers are able to borrow from a range of age appropriate toys and resources.



Eligibility

- Any parent/carer of a child that lives in the Bega Valley Local Government area 0 -7.

Priority Participants Include

- Indigenous families.
- Families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- The child has a development delay.
- The child/parent has a disability.
- The child has challenging behaviour.
- Low Social Economic Status (SES) family.
- Mental health issues for parents and/or children.
- Families who are socially isolated or disadvantaged.
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- Families with child protection issues or chronic mental health issues.
- Families who are homeless.
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Access

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Legislation/Conventions

- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Convention for the Rights of Children
- Racial Discrimination Act 1975
- The Code of Ethics
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2018
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Rules
- Disability Inclusion Act 2014

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date Reviewed & Approved
Version 4	18/2/2019
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