

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES

The information on this page is to provide parents and guardians with some suggestions which may help to reduce out-of-pocket costs associated with accessing therapy services for children.

Please understand that we are not agents for any of the organisations listed above and as such we are unable to assess eligibility, or arrange funding, for these rebates and allowances. If you have questions regarding your eligibility, please contact the organisation directly. Alternatively, your GP may be able to offer further information.

Organisation and Program Name	Brief Description	Medical referral to speech therapy required?	Enquiries
Medicare - Chronic Disease Management (CDM, previously Enhanced Primary Care)	For people who have a chronic condition and complex care needs, a rebate may apply for up to 5 sessions.	Yes - from your GP.	Your GP, or Medicare Tasmania Ph: 1800 005 119
Medicare - Follow-up Allied Health Services for People of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander descent	A rebate may apply for up to 5 sessions when a need for therapy services is identified.	Yes - from your GP.	Your GP, or Medicare Tasmania Ph: 1800 005 119
Medicare - Helping Children with Autism	Children up to 15 years of age may be entitled to a rebate for up to 20 allied health sessions. To be eligible, a diagnosis and treatment plan must have been before the child's 13 th birthday.	Yes - from your Paediatrician or Psychiatrist.	Your Paediatrician, Psychiatrist, GP or Medicare Tasmania Ph: 1800 005 119
FaHCSIA - Helping Children with Autism - Early Intervention	Eligible children up until their 7 th birthday may have access of up to \$12,000 funding for early intervention therapy services.	Yes - from your Paediatrician.	Your Paediatrician, or Autism Tasmania Ph: 1300 288 476, or The Australian Government's 'Helping Children with Autism' Inquiry Line Ph: 1800 289 177
Medicare - Better Start for Children with Disability Initiative	For children with sight /hearing impairment, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome. Children up to 15 years of age may be entitled to a rebate for up to 20 allied health sessions. To be eligible, a treatment and management plan must be in place before the child's 13 th birthday.	Yes - from your Paediatrician or GP.	Your Paediatrician, Psychiatrist, GP, Medicare Tasmania Ph: 1800 005 119, or the Better Start Helpline on 1800 989 530
FaHCSIA - Better Start for Children with Disability Initiative	For children with sight /hearing impairment, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome. Eligible children (with a diagnosis before their 6 th birthday) may have access of up to \$12,000 funding for early intervention therapy services to use up until their 7 th birthday.	Yes - from your Paediatrician.	Your Paediatrician, Carers Australia Ph: 1800 242 636, or the Better Start Helpline on 1800 989 530

FaHCSIA - Better Start for Children with Disability Initiative - regional and remote support	For children living in outer regional or remote areas (up until their 7 th birthday) who are eligible for the Australian Government's Better Start Initiative. Families may be eligible for a \$2,000 one-off support payment.	Yes - from your Paediatrician.	Carers Australia Ph: 1800 242 636, or the Better Start Helpline on 1800 989 530.
Private Health Insurance - Extras	Depending upon your level of cover with a private health insurance fund, you may be entitled to a rebate for your therapy services.	No.	Your individual private health insurance fund.
Australian Taxation Office - Net Medical Expenses Tax Offset	A tax offset may be claimable for out-of-pocket medical expenses greater than \$1,500 for the financial year. This includes some therapy services, if referred by your Doctor.	No.	Your Accountant, or Australian Taxation Office. Personal Tax enquiries: Ph: 132 861
Australian Taxation Office - Education Tax Refund	— For school-children, you may be able to claim for expenses outlaid in therapy resources if those resources have an educational purpose. For example, Fast ForWord program.	No.	
Centrelink - Carer Allowance or Carer Payment	A parent or guardian caring for a child under 16 years of age with a disability or severe medical condition may be entitled to a Carer Allowance or Carer Payment.	No.	Centrelink Ph: 132 717
Centrelink - Carer Adjustment Payment	An emergency payment of up to \$10,000 may be payable to carers of a young child (0-6 years of age) who has been diagnosed with a severe illness or medical condition, or major disability due to an injury from an accident.	No.	Centrelink Ph: 132 717

The list is not extensive. If you are aware of any rebates or allowances which are not included on this page, please let us know - we'd love to learn of more!!