



Disability Services

Information Sheet

Children and Young People: country services

Disability Services provides a range of services to support children and young people with disability and their families living in country South Australia. It aims to:

- ▶ Strengthen and support families in their caring role; and
- ▶ Promote children's development and their participation within their communities.

Disability Services regional teams are located throughout country South Australia. The teams include service coordinators from a range of professional backgrounds who are also supported by specialist services based in metropolitan Adelaide. Service coordinators work in partnership with families and other services to ensure a coordinated approach that supports both the child and their family.



Services provided may include:

- ▶ Information to assist understanding of children's and adolescents' developmental needs and the effect that particular diagnostic conditions may have
- ▶ Family support—assistance to strengthen family resources and problem-solving capacities, including providing information and counselling
- ▶ Parent/carer education—providing information sessions and developing appropriate resources (for example sleep resources, toilet training, communication, understanding adolescence)
- ▶ Support at key transitions such as from kindergarten to school
- ▶ Assistance with behavioural issues including referral to specialist services, where appropriate
- ▶ Referral to other relevant community-based services
- ▶ Service coordination
- ▶ Sibling support
- ▶ Facilitating opportunities for parents/carers to meet with other parents/carers
- ▶ Assistance with planning for pathways beyond school
- ▶ Planning for transition from care for youth under the Guardianship of the Minister.

Specific services for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

In conjunction with service coordinators, senior developmental programmers provide a range of specific services to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, with priority for young children aged 0 to 8 years.

Services provided by Senior Developmental Programmers may include:

- ▶ Providing post-diagnostic support for families/carers, in conjunction with Autism SA
- ▶ Assessing the needs of individual children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- ▶ Providing structured learning programs and behaviour management strategies that address the needs of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- ▶ Developing play and social skills in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- ▶ Providing parent education and support to families/carers with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- ▶ Assisting parents/carers to acquire strategies and skills to meet the needs of their child
- ▶ Working in conjunction with Autism SA, Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) and Community Health to improve the capacity of children to participate in activities.

Who is eligible to receive our services?

- ▶ Children under 5 years of age who have significant global developmental delay
- ▶ Children and adults with intellectual disability
- ▶ Children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (autism or Asperger syndrome)
- ▶ Children* with acquired brain injury. This includes injuries resulting from events such as a stroke or car accident
- ▶ Children* who have a physical or neurological condition that cannot be resolved with medical treatment. This includes conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis, Motor Neurone Disease and Spinal Injury.

*In metropolitan Adelaide, Novita Children's Services is generally the lead service provider for children and young people (up to 18 years of age) with physical/neurological conditions and acquired brain injury. However, in country South Australia, children and young people may access both Novita Children's Services and Disability Services.

Referrals

If you wish to make a referral to Disability Services please contact:

Intake Team, Regency Park Centre
171 Days Road, Regency Park SA 5010
Tel: 1300 786 117 or 8348 6000 (Fax: 8348 6599)

