



We Care Grant - Therapy

Guidelines Individual NSW/ACT

Introduction

We Care Therapy grant provides financial assistance towards the cost of therapy for children with a diagnosis or condition and who do not have NDIS funding (ineligible or awaiting a diagnosis). The grant is up to the value of \$2000 over a 12-month period.

Eligibility

- Children aged 0 – 18 years
- All residents of NSW and ACT can apply, including non-citizens and temporary visa holders and refugees.
- Child must either:
 - Have a confirmed diagnosis documented by a paediatrician, psychiatrist, or allied health professional
 - OR
 - be suspected of having a condition that is likely to require ongoing therapy but not yet formally diagnosed
- **Household gross income is below \$80,000 per annum**
 - This is before tax and other deductions
 - Includes any government payments, child support, investments, and overseas income
 - And any other income that is received by a parent/carer financially responsible for the applicant.
- **NDIS eligibility**
 - The We Care grant is available to children who DO NOT have NDIS funding. This includes children:
 - whose condition/diagnosis is not eligible for NDIS or
 - who are awaiting confirmation of their diagnosis and have not yet applied for NDIS
 - If your child has a diagnosis and is eligible for NDIS, they are not eligible for a We Care grant unless extenuating circumstances apply.
 - Extenuating circumstances apply if you can show that you need financial assistance for therapy while awaiting the completion of your NDIS plan

Eligible Therapy requests

The We Care Therapy grant can fund one or more of the below therapies. They must directly relate to the child's diagnosis and be supported by a GP or Paediatrician. Requested therapies cannot be changed once the grant has been approved.

- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Hydrotherapy
- Psychology
- Exercise Physiology
- Mental Health Social Worker
- Assessment by eligible Therapist to support NDIS application

Non-eligible requests

- Request to fund costs to see a paediatrician or another medical professional
- Request for therapy not listed as eligible in these guidelines
- Retrospective funding – only services provided after approval of grant are eligible
- Applicant who has applied for a We Care Therapy Grant within the last 12 months
- Requests for an assessment that does not relate to a NDIS application

Application

- Applications will be accepted all year round.
- Applications are expected to be truthful and factual



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- Are made on behalf of child by parent/carer or identified support person over 18 years
- All sections must be completed and requested documents attached
- If you need assistance completing the application form, please seek help from a support person such as; a health professional, caseworker, teacher, therapist, family member or friend.

Required documentation

The following attachments MUST be included as part of the application

1. **A GP or Paediatrician** signed letter on their official letterhead, outlining the child's diagnosis/condition and the referral to the therapy (i.e. OT, Physio etc.).
 - child's diagnosis/condition
 - referral to requested therapy
 - Please ensure document is dated within 3 months from date of submission
2. **Household Income**
For each parent/carer who is financially responsible for the child one of the following must be submitted:
 - If receiving **Centrelink Payments** - provide your most recent Centrelink Income Statement
 - If parent/carer is **employed** - provide 2 most recent payslips showing annual income
 - If parent is **self-employed** - provide a recent Notice of Assessment from the Australian Tax Office OR your last three months of bank statements.
 - If parent/carer is **not receiving Centrelink Payments and not employed** - provide last 3 months of bank statements
3. **NDIS** – If you have applied for NDIS, please upload your most recent communication.
4. **NDIS and Extenuating Circumstances**
If you are eligible for NDIS it is unlikely you will be eligible for a We Care grant. If you want to be considered for the We Care grant under extenuating circumstances, please provide a letter from your health or support professional, outlining the need for financial assistance for therapy while awaiting the completion of your NDIS plan.
5. **Assessment support letter** – If request is for an assessment by an eligible therapist, please ensure the below questions are answered in your application. A support letter from the therapist or referring doctor is required.
 - How will the child benefit from the assessment?
 - What is the most likely diagnosis and expected NDIS pathway for the child following the assessment?
 - Why is the assessment more beneficial than using the grant money for therapy?

It is important that you provide the correct information as we are unable to consider applications with insufficient financial evidence.

Review and Approval of grant applications

Each application is assessed by the Kids Support team on its own merit. Eligible submissions are presented to the Grants Committee at bi-monthly meetings who make the final decision.

You will receive notification by email when your application has been assessed. Please allow up to 8 weeks for the review process to be completed.

Unsuccessful applications are at the discretion of the Grants Committee and eligible to reapply in 12 months. Reasons pertaining to unsuccessful applications are at the discretion of the Grants Committee and will not be disclosed to the applicant.



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Successful applications

- An outcome letter is sent via email outlining how to use the grant.
- Successful applicants have 12 months from the date of approval to use their grant

Payment of Therapy Services

- It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to upload tax invoices to the online Variety portal for payment as directed in the outcome letter
- Therapy providers must provide a tax invoice payable to Variety – The Children's Charity NSW/ACT for the approved therapy
- Variety NSW/ACT does not provide money directly to applicants unless an itemised receipt showing proof of payment for approved therapy is available
- Any unspent funds will be forfeited after the expiry date of the grant

Further Information

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Kids Support team on kidssupport@varietynew.org.au

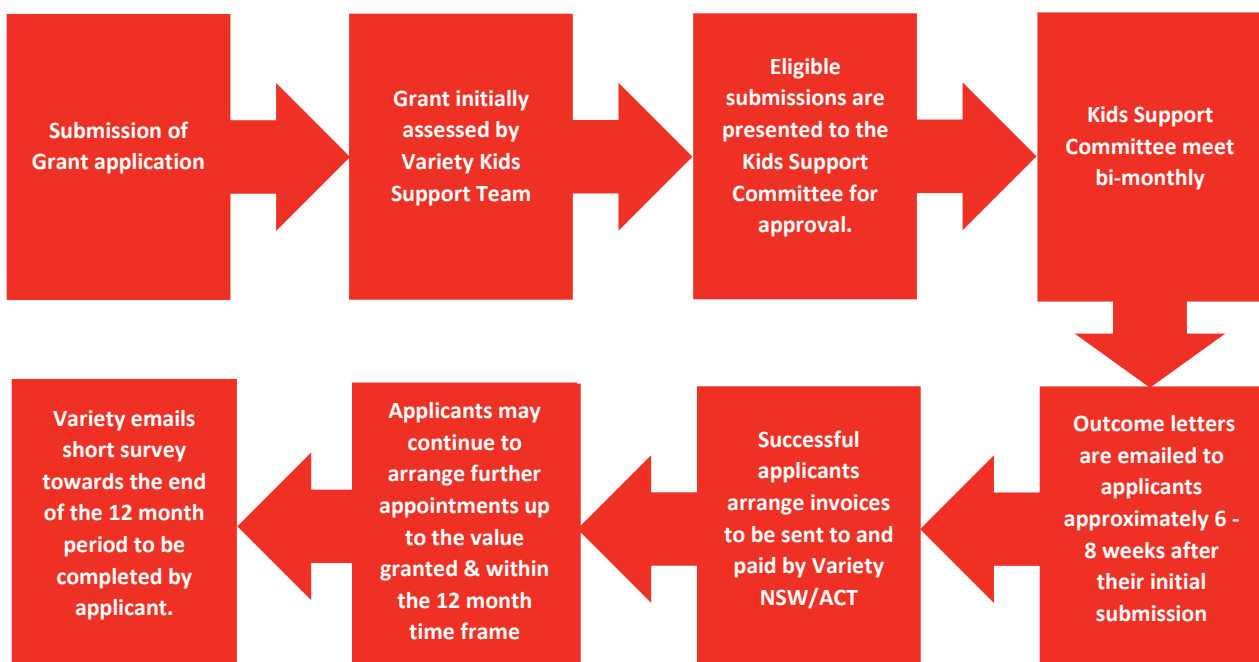
Outcome Reporting

Variety takes great care and pride to ensure that their grants are correctly used to the positive benefit of our children. Applicants will be invited to sign a media release form to grant Variety NSW/ACT the right to use any image or testimonial you have supplied to us on our website or through social media.

As we rely on donations and sponsors to fund our projects, this not only provides us with transparency, but is also a great way to say thank you to those who have helped and encourage any future support for even more children.

A short survey will be emailed when your grant is closed.

Application Steps/Process



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