

We Care Grant - Therapy

Guidelines Individual NSW/ACT

PLEASE NOTE – These Guidelines were updated on 1st October 2023. All applications received after the 1st October will be assessed based on these guidelines.

Introduction

Variety NSW/ACT We Care Therapy grant provides financial assistance towards therapy costs to assist children with a condition and are awaiting a diagnosis or are ineligible for NDIS support and require therapy. The grant is up to the value of \$2000 over a twelve-month period.

Applications will be accepted all year round.

Eligibility

- Applicants must reside in NSW or ACT
- Applications can only be accepted for children aged 0 to 18 years
- Applicants for the We Care Therapy grant must either:
 - have a confirmed formal diagnosis documented by a paediatrician, psychiatrist or allied health professional that requires allied health therapy, and are ineligible for NDIS support
 - be suspected of having a condition that is likely to require ongoing allied health and/or NDIS support, but not yet been formally diagnosed, and have a GP referral to seek formal diagnosis
 - have been accepted as an NDIS participant, and have extenuating circumstances that mean you require financial assistance for therapy while waiting for an approved NDIS plan
- **The family gross household income is below \$80,000 per annum** (this includes child support payments, rental income, investment income, overseas income or any other income that is received by any parent/carer who is financially responsible for the beneficiary)
- Previous recipients will not be considered for another We Care Therapy grant until 12 months after the date listed on their outcome letter.
- Unsuccessful applicants may be eligible to reapply for a We Care Therapy grant 12 months after the date listed on their outcome letter.

Eligible Therapy requests

The Applicant can select one or more as part of their grant request up to the value of \$2000. These must be directly related to the child's diagnosis and supported by a GP or Paediatrician (please see 'Attachments/Evidence' below). The following will form the basis of the grant and if successful, cannot be amended after the approval date.

Eligible therapy requests include:

- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Hydrotherapy
- Psychology
- Exercise Physiology
- and/or
- Assessments or reports by eligible therapists

Non-eligible Therapy requests

The following are examples that will not be considered as part of the grant request:

- The cost of diagnosis by paediatrician or other medical profession.
- Therapy or services not provided by a qualified health professional associated with the therapy.
- Alternative therapies that fall outside of mainstream healthcare such as homeopathy, naturopathy, kinesiology, and massage
- Retrospective funding – only services provided **after** the approval date will be eligible to claim as part of the grant.

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Application

- Applications are open all year round
- Applications are made on behalf of the child by a Parent/Carer or another identified support person (Medical professional, caseworker, teacher etc.) aged 18 years and over
- Applicants will be expected to submit a truthful and factual application & attach relevant documentation as evidence, addressing but not limited to the following points:
 - Name and contact details of applicant
 - Details directly related to the child's diagnosis including Doctor's information
 - Financial documents will need to be uploaded to the application related to household income

Applicants need to ensure the application addresses all criteria and addresses all the information required or risk the application process being delayed or in some cases, denied.

Attachments/Evidence

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.).

This document must be [dated within 3 months](#) at the time of submission

2. **Household Income** – For each parent/carer who is financially responsible for the child one of the following documents must be submitted:

If the parent/carer is receiving Centrelink benefits provide your most recent Centrelink Income Statement. (this is not your annual PAYG Centrelink Activity Statement.) You can download examples of acceptable Centrelink statements [here](#). If you are unsure how to obtain your Centrelink Income Statement online from MyGov, please click [here](#) for instructions. If you are unsure how to obtain your Centreline Income Statement from the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app click [here](#) for instructions.

OR

If parent/carer is employed (full time, part time or casual) provide your most recent two payslips showing annual income.

OR

If parent/carer is not receiving Centrelink benefits or in employment provide your last three months bank statements.

3. **NDIS** - Depending on your child's NDIS status, you may need to upload your most recent communication and/or documentation from the NDIS.

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

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Post-Submission and Assessment

Variety NSW We Care Therapy grants are reviewed by the Grants Committee at bi-monthly meetings. After submission, applications will be assessed by the Grants Committee at the next scheduled meeting. You will receive notification by email when your application has been assessed. Please allow up to 8 weeks for the process to be complete.

Each application is assessed by the Kids Support team on its own merit and equal weighting is given to both the financial situation and the needs of the beneficiary.

Eligible submissions are presented to the Grants Committee for the final decision.

Decision

Outcome letters are emailed to applicants following assessment by the Kids Support Committee.

Unsuccessful Applicants

- Reasons pertaining to unsuccessful applications are at the discretion of the Grants Committee and will not be disclosed to the applicant.
- Unsuccessful applicants may be eligible to reapply in 12 months from the date listed on the letter.

Successful Applicants

- Next step instructions will be provided to successful applicants in their outcome letter.
- Successful applicants have 12 months from the date of approval on their outcome letter to use their grant.
- No retrospective funding is eligible.
- The Therapy provider must provide the applicant with a tax invoice payable to Variety NSW/ACT for the approved item and amount (Please note: Variety NSW/ACT does not provide money directly to applicants).
- It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to action all appropriate steps after receiving the outcome letter (as directed).
- Any unspent funds will be forfeited after the expiry date of the grant.

Outcome Reporting

The applicant will be requested to complete a short survey between 3-12 months after receiving their grant. This will be emailed to the applicants Parent/Carer.

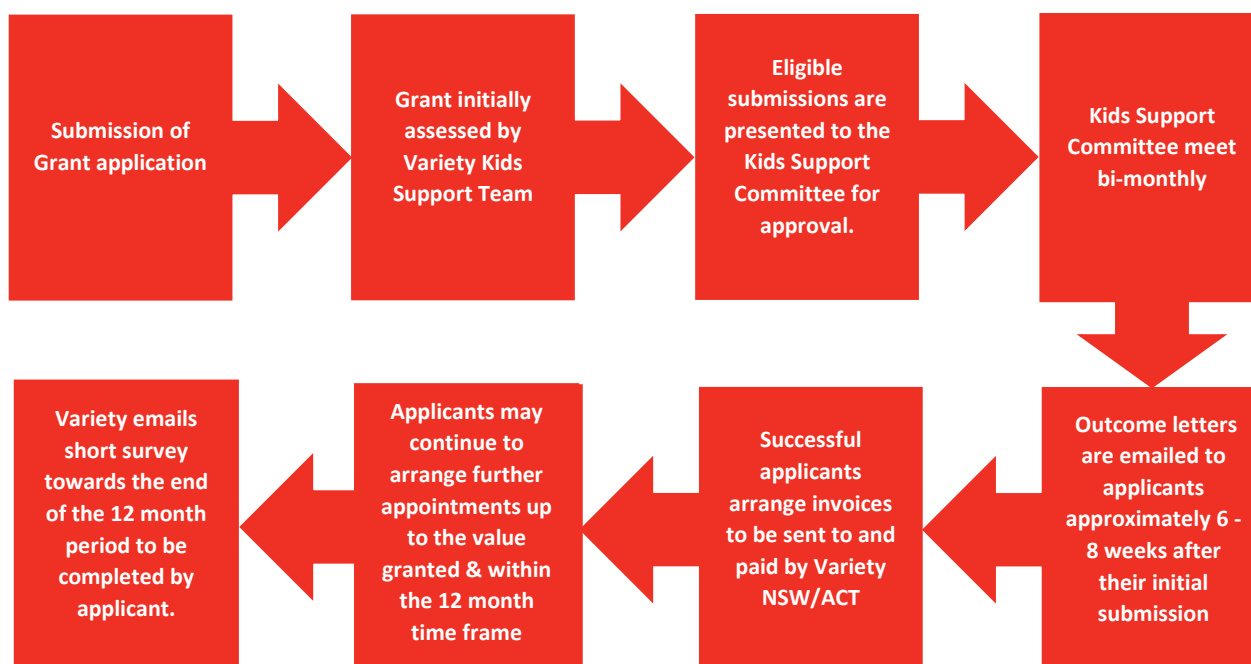
Outside completing a survey and without obligation, Variety enjoys hearing any updates on a child's progress, well-being, and achievements once they've received their grant. If the Parent/Carer and the child feel comfortable to share any updates with Variety, please email them through to kidssupport@varietynsw.org.au.

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Application Steps/Process



If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact the Kids Support team on kidssupport@varietynsw.org.au