



# Early Intervention Funding: How to make the system work for you

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# State and Federal funding options

Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS)	Helping Children with Autism Package (HCWA)
State-funded program.	Federally-funded program.
Agency funding model – service receives funds	Individualised funding model – family controls funds
Child offered place at ECIS agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• home- or centre-based</li><li>• 1:1 or group sessions</li></ul>	Child accesses to up to \$12,000 of therapy <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• home- or centre-based</li><li>• 1:1 or group sessions</li></ul>
Conducted by early childhood intervention workers from a variety of backgrounds	Services covered include speech therapy, occupational therapy, and psychology
Receive service from <b>one</b> ECIS provider	Can access <b>several</b> FaHCSIA providers

# State and Federal funding options

Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS)	Helping Children with Autism Package (HCWA)
Eligibility not specific to ASD	ASD-specific
No definitive diagnosis of a disability required	Definitive diagnosis of ASD required
Eligible for service until child starts school	Receive service until child's seventh birthday (unless \$12,000 spent before then)
<b>Additional entitlements:</b>  Can apply for Flexible Support Package (a grant for family to spend on equipment, resources, safety equipment, etc. to help support their child)	<b>Additional entitlements:</b>  Up to 35% of the \$12,000 can be spent on equipment and resources  Some families eligible for Access Payment of \$2000

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## HELPING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM



### What is the 'Helping Children With Autism' Package?

The Australian Government, through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), The Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA), and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) have committed \$190 Million to support families, and their children who have a DSM-IV diagnosis of:

- Autistic Disorder

- Asperger's Disorder

# Helping Children with Autism (HCWA)

Department of Families,  
Housing, Community  
Services, and Indigenous  
Affairs

FaHCSIA



Department of  
Education, Employment,  
and Workplace Relations

DEEWR



Department of Health  
and Aging

DOHA



**\$190 Million**

New Medicare items  
for diagnosis and  
treatment

\$12,000 to families  
for intervention

Autism Specific Early  
Learning and Care  
Centres

National program of  
Workshops for parents  
and teachers

National ASD Website

Playgroups for children  
with ASD symptoms

# Helping Children with Autism Package

## Access to \$12,000 for Early Intervention

- Services from FaHCSIA's approved Provider Panel
  - ▣ Speech therapy
  - ▣ Occupational therapy
  - ▣ Psychology
- Maximum of \$6000 per financial year
- Apply before 6 years, access funding until 7



# Helping Children with Autism Package

## Access to \$12,000 for Early Intervention

- Up to 35% on equipment and resources for therapy
- \$2000 cash payment for families in certain circumstances to assist with access (e.g. those in outer-regional and remote areas)
- Provision for interpreting services



# Helping Children with Autism Package



## Eligibility

- Child is under six years old
- Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident
- Centrelink Customer Reference Number

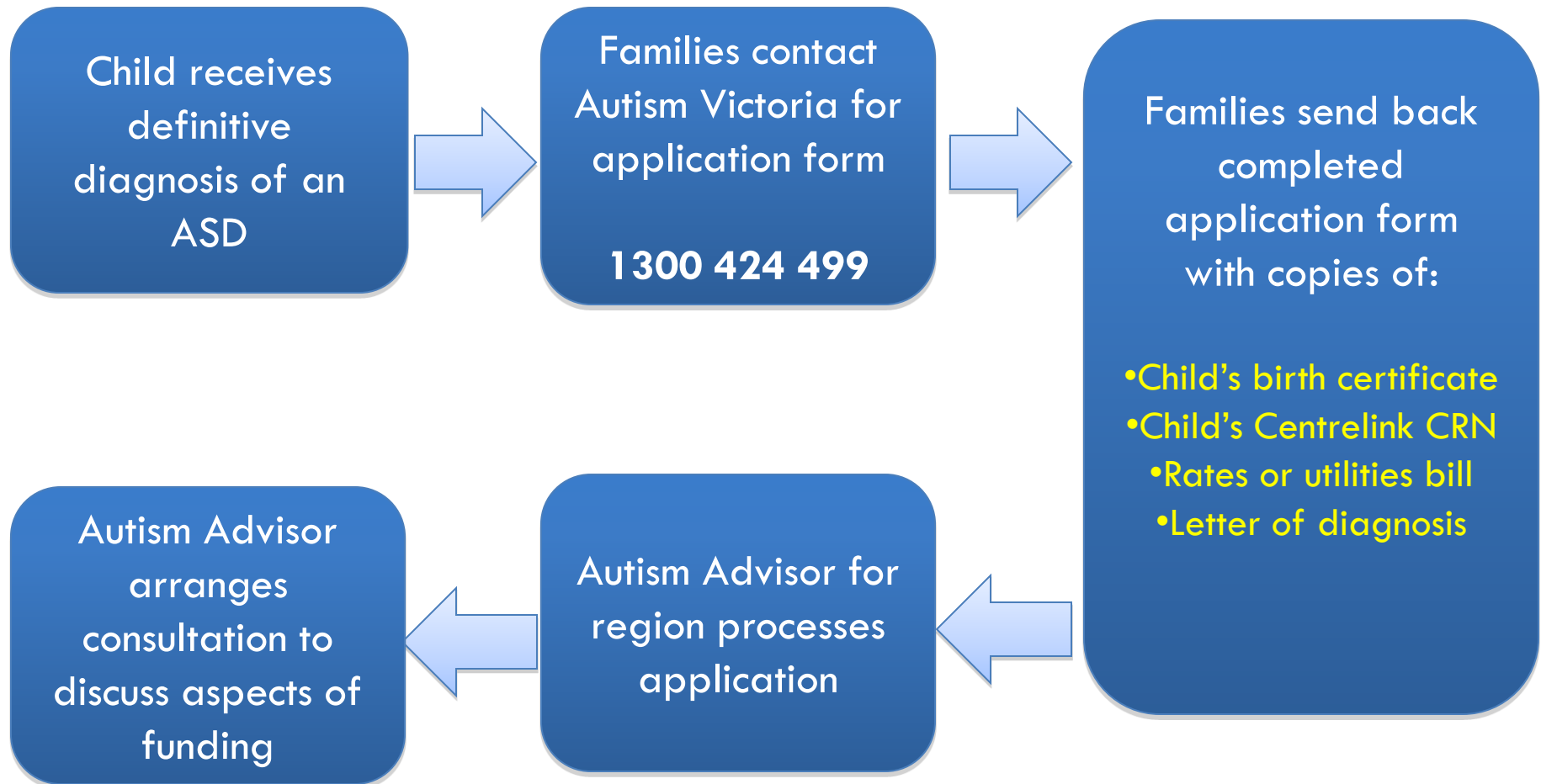
# Helping Children with Autism Package



## Eligibility

- Definitive DSM-IV diagnosis of a PDD from paediatrician, psychiatrist or multidisciplinary team
  - Autistic Disorder
  - Asperger's Disorder
  - Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified
  - **Rett's Disorder**
  - **Childhood Disintegrative Disorder**

# How do families apply?



# Helping Children with Autism Package

## Advisor Consultation with Families

Face-to-face or telephone consultation covering:

- \$12,000 funding and how to access it
- FaHCSIA Provider Panel services available in local area
- Types of therapies funded (speech, psychology, OT)
- Determine eligibility for \$2000 Access Payment
- Medicare Initiatives
- Other resources, support services, respite, and programs available.



# Helping Children with Autism Package

## Advisor Consultation with Families

### Other elements of HCWA package

- Parent workshops
  - ▣ *Early Days: 0-6; Positive Partnerships: school age*
- Teacher workshops
  - ▣ *Positive Partnerships*
- PlayConnect Playgroups
  - ▣ *0-6 with ASD or ASD symptoms*
- National ASD parenting website
  - ▣ *Raising Children Network*



# Helping Children with Autism Package

## Victorian Autism Advisor Program

- ❑ Processed over 3000 applications across Victoria
- ❑ Southeast and Northwest Teams
  - ▣ Metropolitan Advisors
  - ▣ Rural Links Advisors
  - ▣ Indigenous Links
  - ▣ CALD Links
- ❑ Regional Roadshows
- ❑ AA Newsletter
- ❑ HCWA Video





# Autism Advisor Program

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