

MC19-000632

03 MAY 2019
BY: _____



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ndis.gov.au

Mr Pat Conroy MP
Shadow Assistant Minister for Climate Change
Shadow Assistant Minister for Infrastructure
Member for Shortland
PO Box 499
BELMONT NSW 2280

Dear Mr Conroy

Thank you for your letter dated 26 March 2019 to the Assistant Minister for Social Services, Housing and Disability Services, the Hon Sarah Henderson MP, on behalf of several of your constituents, concerning National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funding of music therapy. The Assistant Minister has asked me to reply to you on her behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The NDIS funds reasonable and necessary supports, and gives participants the ability to choose their supports, to assist them to pursue their goals and support their social and economic participation. The NDIS also funds supports to improve or reduce the deterioration of a participant's functional capacity and to assist their family and carers in supporting them.

When identifying the types and amount of reasonable and necessary supports to provide, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) will review all of the information provided at the time of planning and make decisions based on the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (NDIS Act), the rules made under the NDIS Act, and any relevant operational guidelines. It is important that the NDIA is provided with evidence of a person's need at the time of planning to ensure that the plan includes funding for all of their support requirements. NDIA staff apply the reasonable and necessary criteria under the NDIS Act and make decisions based on the individual participant's needs and their unique circumstances.

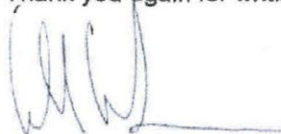
The NDIS funds music therapy where deemed reasonable and necessary to improve the participant's skills and independence. When making this decision, NDIA delegates consider the participant's individual goals, needs and circumstances, as well as the evidence of benefits and outcomes related to specific supports.

Under the NDIS, music therapy is a capacity building (therapeutic) support. These supports assist the participant to apply their functional skills to improve participation and independence in daily, practical activities in areas such as language and communication, personal care, mobility and movement, interpersonal interactions and community living. Delivery of this support may be on an individual or group basis. Information on the relevant pricing structure for these supports is available under the Improved Daily living Skills section of the current NDIS Price guide. Information about the price guides can be found on the NDIS website at: www.ndis.gov.au/providers/price-guides-and-information.

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NDIA staff and partner guidance does not preclude the inclusion of music therapy in NDIS plans. Generally, music therapy forms part of a multi-disciplinary capacity building intervention rather than a stand-alone support. Unless a participant's NDIS plan requires supports to be delivered in a particular way, or through a particular provider, they have a degree of flexibility in choosing supports to help them work towards their goals, including choosing to be supported by a music therapist.

Thank you again for writing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Garton', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

William Garton
General Manager
Access and Planning

1 May 2019