

Subject: ABA therapy is not something which is funded by the NDIS

From: Bob Buckley <convenor@a4.org.au>

Date: 8/10/2024, 7:38 pm

To: "McKenzie, Corri" <Corri.McKenzie@ndis.gov.au>

CC: Jenny Karavolos <jenkaravolos@outlook.com>, "Ross Joyce (AFDO)" <ross.joyce@afdo.org.au>

Hi Corri

See the picture below. When I raised this issue at the last DRCO Forum, you initially said it was not happening (which implied I was lying). Then when Jenny K confirmed what I said you backed off a bit - I don't recall precisely what you said next.

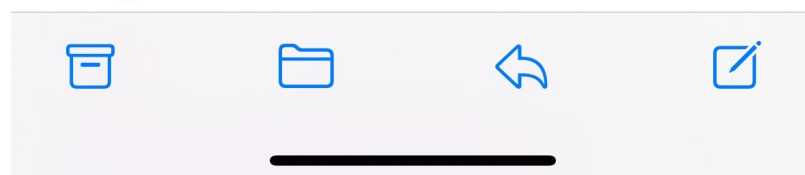
As per our phone conversation today, the NDIS did not fund ABA therapy in [REDACTED]'s current plan and the NDIS planner/delegate who approved his plan stated that ABA therapy is not something which is funded by the NDIS.

As discussed, if you are not satisfied with [REDACTED]'s next NDIS plan, there is no option for an internal review and you will need to lodge an application with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. We can discuss this further, if necessary once his NDIS plan has been approved.
[How to apply | Administrative Appeals Tribunal \(aat.gov.au\)](https://www.aat.gov.au)

Warm Regards,

Jane Martorana

Early Childhood Coordinator – Western



This is from another source (Jenny will not know of this one).

This shows parts of the NDIA have a total ban on ABA as a support for autistic children. According to the information the NDIA commissioned from the Autism CRC, that means the NDIS will not

fund any of EIBI, PECS, NDBI and PBS (see the attached extract from the Autism CRC Guidelines on early intervention).

On the other hand, we find out that:

Equine Therapy and Animal-Assisted Therapy:

Participants can utilise equine therapy and other animal therapies if these are all delivered by qualified allied health professionals e.g Occupational Therapist and Speech Therapist etc. Therefore it is charged under the therapy line item and the animals and outdoor environment are incorporated into the therapy activities to promote engagement and effective therapy - also known as Equine assisted learning/therapy or animal assisted learning/therapy. To ensure it's funded under the NDIS you just need to ensure it's delivered by the qualified allied health professional as per the NDIS Guidelines.

It's important to note: Participants are not getting "animal therapy". They are getting Occupational Therapy or Speech therapy and working towards their therapy/NDIS goals.

Advice has been given in several sessions that people should get around the new rules as suggested above.

Autistic people and their families are often strict rule followers. Many of them will be simply unable to bend the rules as they are now being advised. How will the NDIS accommodate their "differences"?

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Bob Buckley

Co-convenor, *Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia* (A4)

website: <http://a4.org.au/>

A4, a recognised disability representative organisation (DRO), advocates for autistic people, their families, carers and associates. A4 is internet based so that Australians anywhere can participate in and contribute to A4's advocacy for autistic people, their carers and allies.

A4 recognises the Traditional Owners of lands in Australia; we respect their elders past, present and emerging. Sovereignty was never ceded.

Recipients of correspondence from A4, especially politicians and government officials, are all subject to A4's policy on unanswered questions: see <http://a4.org.au/node/1419>.

The autism issue is that autistic people just don't deliver on the plans, dreams and expectations in other peoples' heads.

— Attachments: —

BehaviourTheoryp117.pdf

209 kB