

Disability Practice Advice

Each DFFH Division has a Principal / Disability Practice Advisor. The P/DPAs work to maintain specialist disability expertise and resourcing to support children with complex disability needs and their families, following the transition of disability services to the NDIS.

Functions of the P/DPAs

- Provide consultation and capacity building support to the child protection workforce on disability and service systems (including the National Disability Insurance Scheme) to achieve better outcomes for vulnerable families with disability.
- Assist family services with specialist disability advice and linkages to facilitate early intervention to support children with complex disability needs and their families to reduce the risk of subsequent need to involvement with the department.
- Assist with the transition of children with a disability within the child protection system to adulthood arrangements,
- In exceptional circumstances, escalate critical issues to the NDIA relating to NDIS funding for children with complex disability needs where there is a significant need identified and all alternative avenues to resolve the issues directly with the NDIA have not been successful.

Objectives of the role

- Prevent children with a disability from requiring accommodation outside the family home because of their complex disability support needs.
- Assist families, child protection and family services to navigate the NDIS and other mainstream support systems and increase the NDIS participation of children within or at risk of entering the CP system
- Promote the inclusion of appropriate disability and parenting supports in NDIS plans to help maintain the sustainability of care in the family home, or in statutory care, and to support family reunification, where suitable
- Support early planning for young people into sustainable adult care arrangements that best meet their needs.
- Build the ongoing capacity of the child and family services sector to provide specialist support required for families with children with complex disability support needs by effectively navigating the NDIS and utilising appropriate sources of secondary consultation and referral.
- Work collaboratively with Child Protection, Family Services, and the Children with Complex Disability Support Needs Program to identify families who would benefit from a service response
- Provide consultation to Child Protection in their support of children with disability in the statutory system, build their capacity to navigate the NDIS and improve planning and outcomes for children, including leaving care planning.
- Build relationships with mainstream services, such as specialist disability schools and health services, to encourage early identification and support of families where the complexity of the disability support needs is likely to cause increased family pressure and potential for the child to require care outside of the family home.

Contact your Division office:

North Division - 1300 598 521

South Division - 1300 555 526

East Division - 1300 360 452

West Division - 1300 360 462