

EI Recommendation:

1. To aim for and ensure 0-6 years review of participant plans is more flexible than not – due to the frequent change and or increase to a young person's therapy / community support.

We unfortunately have families with plans that do not align with their young person's support needs – with NDIA stating they will not review plans 2 months outside an annual review.

This in turn means no service / support accessibility for the young person and the family – which has been very distressing for the families we support.

2. Sensory Aids (weighted blankets, vests, mini- trampolines) and Assistive Technology (IPads) are not being approved due to 'no clinical evidence that they work' . Concerning for families where research and individual therapy , school and community notes supports the improvement to skill development due to these aids.

These therapy resources are funded via Better Start and HCWA – unclear why NDIA does not see the validity for continuation as 'Approved Support'.

This will be an area where I foresee a lot of appeal and concern for 0-6 years (especially children with ASD and Autism) as these resources have real place under '**Reasonable and Necessary**'.

A major concern has been the lack of consultation between NDIS and EI service Providers. Myhorizon operates a program known as Baby Bridges (Statewide 10 years next year – funded by State Government). We have systems, staff and protocols in place to service Intake, Assessment, Referral and service Networking for Families 0-16 years.

Confused as to why the wheel would be reinvented (especially from an economic stand point) when this decade standing approach has been funded and proven to be effective, efficient and successful (as the data and feedback highlights) via the Baby Bridges model very closely aligned with ECEI Model.

Baby Bridges and Myhorizon has emailed, phoned and attended limited ECEI Forums seeking opportunity to tender for the Brisbane / Redlands roll out.

I thank you and the committee for investing time and concentrated effort Re: Review and planning for QLD 's NDIS transition.