

MINUTE

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

MaPS.Net PDR Id	MN10-002086
Due Date	28/10/2010
Critical Date	N/A
Consultation	Media No
	Group Manager No
	Deputy Secretary No
	State Manager No

To Senator the Hon Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers
For information

cc: the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs

Subject: Implementation Overview - Better Start for Children with Disability initiative

Purpose: During the 2010 election campaign the Government announced a commitment of \$122 million over four years to provide children diagnosed (before six years of age) with sight and hearing impairment, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome or Fragile X Syndrome with financial support to access early intervention therapies and treatments from health professionals.

} 247C
} Deliberative
} Processes

As a result of this decision, departmental funding will not be available to the Department until 1 July 2011 and the Department is working through the associated budget pressures. The recruitment of a small team to work full-time on the proposal and consultation processes (that need to commence before the end of the calendar year) is well underway.

} 247C
} Deliberative
} Processes

The implementation overview (**Attachment A**) sets out milestones and activities for this initiative.

A draft list of key stakeholders who may be contacted during the consultation process has also been provided (**Attachment B**).

Media Release: not required

Recommendation:

1. That you note the information provided at **Attachments A and B**.

Noted / Please Discuss

Name: Deborah Winkler *D.Winkler* Date: *18/10/10*
 Position: Branch Manager
 Branch: Mental Health and Autism Branch
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Comments (MO use)

Thanks for the briefing.

*2476
Deliberative
Process*

Signature:

Jan M Lucas

Date:

25-10-10

ADVISER TO ACTION:

Local Member Advised	State Member Advised
Yes / No	Yes / No
Name of Member	Name of Member

Rating	Quality	Timeliness
Unsatisfactory		
Satisfactory		
Good		

BETTER START FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY Implementation Overview

Election Commitment:
Better Start for Children with Disability

Measure No:
Version 1
October 2010

Description of Initiative:

The Australian Government announced a commitment of \$122 million over four years to provide children diagnosed with sight and hearing impairment, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome or Fragile X Syndrome before 6 years of age with financial support to access intensive early intervention therapies and treatments from health professionals.

From 1 July 2011, eligible children will receive up to \$12,000 (\$6,000 per financial year) to access therapy services such as speech pathology, audiology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and psychology. Eligible children will be those diagnosed with one of the prescribed disabilities prior to their sixth birthday and families will have until the child turns seven to access funding.

In addition, a Medicare rebate for the development of a treatment and management plan will be available for children under the age of 13. Medicare rebates will also be available for up to four allied health diagnostic services and for up to 20 allied health treatment services per child in total with relevant allied health professionals. Treatment items could be used by children up to the age of 15 provided they received a treatment and management plan before they were 13 years of age.

Aim of Initiative / Outcomes:

- To provide support for eligible children aged zero to six years access to funding for early intervention services.
- To provide support for eligible children up to 15 years of age access to Medicare rebates for prescribed items.
- To complement existing state and territory government services and help reduce the financial burden faced by families accessing early intervention services for children with these disabilities.

Milestone	Start Date	Completion Date	Responsible Officer
Start up and preparation activities:			
• Establish Governance structure (includes Project board, Interdepartmental working group, state government forums)	October 2010	October 2010	Project Manager
• Develop and finalise Project Blueprint	October 2010	October 2010	Project Manager
• Develop Project Management plan including detailed work breakdown structure and risk management strategy	October 2010	Early November 2010	Project Manager/team
• Undertake a stakeholder analysis	October 2010	November 2010	Project manager/team
• Develop a consultation strategy	November 2010	November 2010	Project Manager
• Preliminary work to develop partnership with Department of Health and Ageing, Medicare Australia	November 2010	Ongoing	Project team
• Work with PPG to develop ICT requirements for FOFMS (ER16)	October 2010	November 2010	Project Manager
• Review costing for Budget	October 2010	November 2010	Project Manager
Development activities:			
• Develop communications strategy (set up public hotline, website information, inbox etc)	December 2010	January 2011	Project team/ Communications

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage expert consultants as required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sight impairment expert Hearing impairment expert Cerebral Palsy expert Down Syndrome expert Fragile X expert 	November 2010	November 2011	Project Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake consultations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State and territory governments, Peak bodies Disability sector Allied Health professionals 	December 2010	February 2011	Project Manager/ Branch Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare program documentation including program overview, program logic, and risk assessment. Seek PPG approval. 	January 2011	January 2011	Project team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and finalise program guidelines (will need to go to DOFD under CGG) 	January 2011	February 2011	Project Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop selection documentation for application process for panel 	January 2011	February 2011	Project team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop performance indicators and draft funding agreements for access point 	February 2011	March 2011	Project Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Deed of agreement for panel providers 	February 2011	March 2011	Project team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test systems (FOFMS) to implement the initiative 	April 2011	May 2011	Project team/ PPG/ IT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising for panel providers 	March 2011	March 2011	Project team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications for panel providers open 	April 2011	June 2011	Project team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation strategy developed 	March 2011	April 2011	Project Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop media release 	June 2011	June 2011	Project Manager/ Communications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Commencement of Initiative</i> 	<i>1 July 2011</i>	<i>ongoing</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of panel provider coverage 	September 2011	September 2011	Project team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising (if required) panel providers 	October 2011	October 2011	Project team/ Communications
Outcome and finalisation activities:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post implementation review 	August 2012	September 2012	Project Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial evaluation report 	August 2013	August 2013	Project Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet Review 	October 2013	October 2013	Branch Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final evaluation report 	September 2014	September 2014	Project Manager

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