

The Children's Allied Health Service at Sunshine Hospital

The Children's Allied Health Service (CAHS) at Sunshine Hospital provides a range of services for children with developmental delays and difficulties, prior to school entry. Services include Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Dietetics and Neuropsychology. We accept referrals for children living in: Brimbank, Hobson's Bay, Maribyrnong and Wyndham.

Who is eligible for multidisciplinary services at CAHS?

A child is eligible for multi-disciplinary services CAHS if he or she:

1. Is aged 0-6 (i.e. is not attending primary school) **and**
2. Has identified needs in **two or more** of the following areas:
 - a. Expressive and Receptive Language
 - b. Self care
 - c. Cognitive Development
 - d. Motor Development
 - e. Play and social skills
 - f. Behaviour
 - g. Eating and Drinking **which**
3. Results in the need for a coordinated range of services to support the child's development, and the child's family.
4. Is not accessing Federal Government Funding (e.g. Helping Children With Autism or Better Start)

What multidisciplinary services can you refer to CAHS for?

Children can be referred to CAHS for one of two initial streams of multi-disciplinary assessment:

- A **Multidisciplinary Screening Assessment** if there are developmental concerns, and where Autism Spectrum Disorder is unlikely and the child is not already accessing Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS). This assessment is completed by two staff from different disciplines: a Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist. This is not a full diagnostic assessment.

OR

- An **Autism Assessment** if Autism Spectrum Disorder is a concern. This assessment is completed by a Paediatrician, Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist.
Please note: Where there are concerns about an Autism Spectrum Disorder, these **MUST** be discussed with the family prior to making a referral, and parents must provide informed consent.

Referrals must contain sufficient information detailing multiple (2 or more) areas of need.

Following assessment:

- The child is placed on a waiting list for relevant therapy services at CAHS, as identified during assessment; **OR**
- The child is discharged to other services if:
 - o They have single-discipline needs only
 - o An Autism Spectrum Disorder is diagnosed
 - o They are already receiving public services (e.g. Early Childhood Intervention Services) elsewhere.

Single-discipline referrals can also be made for the following areas **only**:

Discipline	Age	Purpose
Speech Pathology	Up to school age	Feeding only . (Speech/language-only assessment and intervention is <u>not available</u> . Single discipline speech/language referrals should be sent to community health services such as ISIS Primary Care).
Physiotherapy (Neuro)	<18 months of age	Neurodevelopmental intervention
Physiotherapy (Orthopaedic)	Up to age 17 years	General orthopaedic conditions including plagiocephaly/torticollis, normal postural variations, foot/knee/ankle pain, positional talipes, general ligament laxity
Occupational Therapy	Primary school age	Assessment and therapy for a range of needs for children who are <u>not</u> accessing other funding sources such as Helping Children With Autism, Better Start or Program for Students with Disabilities.
Dietetics	0- 16 years	Full range of nutrition issues
Neuropsychology	2-12 years	Referrals only accepted from Paediatricians.
Audiology	0-18 years	Full range of audiological assessments.

Please contact Central Intake on 8345-1430 with any questions.

Please also note: CAHS is a separate service to the Paediatric Outpatient Clinic at Sunshine Hospital. The Paediatric Outpatient Clinic can be contacted on Ph: 8345-1616 or 8345-1618 or Fax: 8345-1079