

CHANGES IN ELIGIBILITY FOR THE FEDERAL EARLY INTERVENTION FUNDING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

The eligibility criterion for children accessing the early intervention funding through the Helping Children with Autism package is as follows:

- To be eligible for the Early Intervention funding package a child must have been seen by an Autism Advisor and deemed eligible to access the program before their 6th Birthday. The \$12,000 in funding under the Early Intervention Component can be used until the child's 7th Birthday to a maximum of \$6,000 per financial year.
- All eligible children will only have access up to a maximum of \$12,000 funding (\$6,000 funding per financial year) irrespective of any extended timeframes.

Children Aged 6 between 27 October 2008 and 18 October 2009

- A child whose 6th Birthday is between 27 October 2008 and 18 October 2009 will have access to the early intervention funding for one calendar year from 19 October 2009 to 18 October 2010. They will have a maximum of up to \$6,000 to use within this year of eligibility. No child will exceed the \$12,000 limit.

This provision will end on the 18 October 2010. Service providers are able to claim for services delivered to 18 October 2010 up to three months after the service delivery date.

Changes to the early intervention funding criteria

- This new criteria will replace the current eligibility criteria issued on 2nd February 2009, **including** the special consideration process.
- To be eligible for the Early Intervention funding package a child will have seen an Autism Advisor and deemed eligible to access the program before their 6th Birthday. This means that the Advisor will consider the child's situation and make a judgement that is in keeping with the intent of the funding.
- Children who are currently on special consideration based on the 2 February 2009 eligibility criteria will continue accessing their funding and receive an additional 12 months from 19 October 2009 to 18 October 2010. They will have a maximum of up to \$6,000 to use within this year of eligibility however, no child must exceed the \$12,000 limit.