



Responding to Requests for NDIS Funded Therapy

5E.1 Policy

Rationale:

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provides increased choice and control to participants and their families on how disability services and supports are delivered. As a result, principals may receive parent/guardian/carer requests to allow NDIS funded therapists to:

- observe a student in the classroom or in the school environment
- attend a Student Support Group meeting, to monitor and tailor the support provided to the student.

These requests can generally be accommodated by schools and complement holistic student planning and support processes.

Principals may also receive requests for NDIS funded therapists to deliver ongoing therapy at school.

Aims:

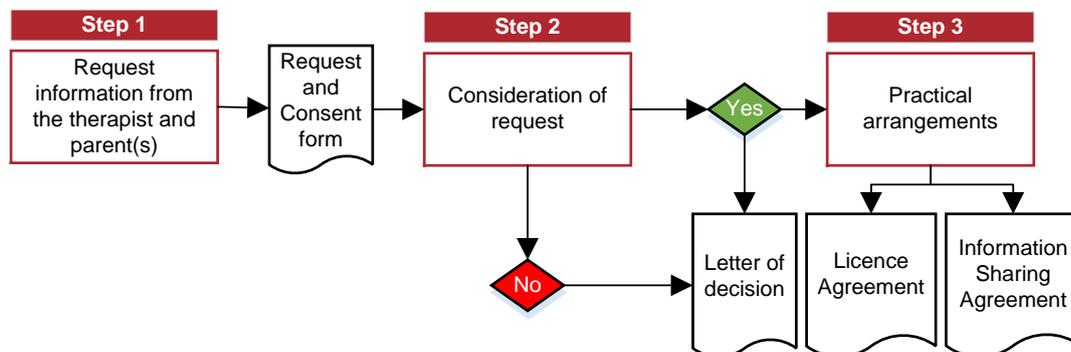
The Department is committed to supporting NDIS participants, and their families, to optimise the benefits offered by the NDIS. Consistent with this commitment, Victorian Government schools are encouraged to accommodate students and their parent(s) exercising choice and control in relation to NDIS supports.

On this basis, requests for NDIS funded therapy to be delivered at school should be approved unless the specific circumstances raise practical, legal and/or educational issues that make the approval of the request unfeasible.

The Department guidelines:

- recommend a consistent three step process to follow
- highlight key considerations that a principal must take into account when making a decision
- provide templates for liaising with all relevant parties and establishing practical arrangements.

The Department has designed a three step process (see Figure 1), to assist principals in finalising their response to therapy requests on a case by case basis.



Implementation:

- When there is a request for therapy at school, the principal or nominee asks the therapist and parent(s) about the therapy proposed to be provided at school, and the reasons for this request. A Request and Consent Form is given to the parent/guardian/carer to be filled in by the therapist.
- The principal or nominee considers the request in light of all relevant factors and makes a decision as to whether the therapy can be provided on school grounds. This decision is communicated to the therapist and parent(s).
- Only one therapist per student will be considered at any one time and for the negotiated period.
- It is important to note that the therapeutic goal should be 'whole of life' skills and not educational goals.
- A Licence Agreement will be entered into between The School (as DET representative) and the NDIS funded therapist and/or company. This will be filled out by school personnel and signed by all parties as per DET policy.
- The timing of sessions will be organised within the plan, in consultation with all parties, and with particular note of the student's weekly timetable.
- The NDIS funded therapist will be required to confer a copy of his/her Working With Children Check and will need to sign the School's Child Safe Code of Conduct.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the schools three year review cycle.

This policy was reviewed in April 2023.

It is scheduled for review in April 2027.