

Helping Children with Autism Program (HCWA)

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Service and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) have provided funding for families with a child diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Families can access up to \$6,000 a year (to a total of \$12,000) to support their child's early intervention.

HCWA services must be provided by organisations that have been approved by FaHCSIA. Pinarc has been an approved FaHCSIA service provider since 2008. Families may choose services from a variety of providers to source services that best suit their child's needs.

What can the funding be used for?

Families can use the funding to access intervention services for:

- speech pathology
- occupational therapy
- education advisors
- psychologists
- equipment and resources

Using HCWA funding to purchase equipment

The FaHCSIA guidelines allow up to 35% of your child's HCWA funding to be used for the purchase of equipment and resources. This means you can use up to \$4,200 out of your \$12,000 for purchasing resources (or up to \$2,100 in any one financial year)

Resources that are purchased with HCWA funds must:

- be recommended by the child's HCWA service provider
- be directly linked with the early intervention services being delivered
- provide support for the delivery of interventions at home

As outlined in the HCWA guidelines, all equipment and resources purchased through HCWA funding must be recommended by a therapist/advisor. Your therapist/advisor will assess your child and make recommendations about equipment/resources that support their development. The time taken to complete this assessment will be charged. The fees associated with this service are outlined in our fee schedule.

When it comes to researching, locating and ordering equipment /resources you have two choices. You can ask Pinarc to help you with this; however we will need to charge for the time taken for our staff to do this.

Alternatively, you can purchase the recommended equipment yourself and then be reimbursed by Pinarc from your HCWA funding. It is important for you to know that Pinarc is not able to reimburse you for the cost of equipment/resources that do not fit within the HCWA guidelines.

If a piece of equipment is priced above the funds you have available, you can choose to make up the difference in cost. This contribution would need to be received by Pinarc before the order is placed. Please note that freight and delivery charges apply to equipment and resources ordered through Pinarc.

Registering for HCWA Services at Pinarc

Registering for HCWA intervention services at Pinarc is easy. Please contact Central Intake at Pinarc on 5329 1398 and we will talk you through the steps for registering and how to get started.

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