

What is the Helping Children with Autism Program (HCWA)?

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Service and Indigenous Affairs (FaCHSIA) have provided funding for families with a child diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Families can access up to \$6000 a year (to a total of \$12000) to support their child's Early Intervention. This funding is in addition to any Early Intervention services already being provided.

Funding is not given to families directly. It is held by FaCHSIA and service providers claim a reimbursement once a service has been provided.

Families need to apply for the funding before their child turns 6 and it can be used up until the child's 7th birthday.

HCWA program has been set up to provide families with:

- Information about services available to support them and their child
- Access to allied health intervention services to support their child's development
- Support families to access equipment and resources

What can I use this funding for?

Your HCWA funding can be used for:

- Speech pathology
- Occupational therapy
- Education advisors
- Psychologists
- Equipment and resources

How Can I get this funding?

To register your child for the Helping Children with Autism funding you need to call Amaze (formally Autism Victoria) on 96571600 or 1300 424 499 (for the cost of a local call)

You will need:

- Your child's Centrelink customer reference number (CRN). This is found on any Centrelink documents regarding your child
- Proof of your child's age and address
- Written documentation confirming your child's diagnosis. Usually from a paediatrician or psychiatrist

How Can I Use my funding with Pinarc?

Once you have registered with Amaze you will be provided with a "Letter of Introduction". This letter confirms that you are able to access funding through the HCWA program.

Once you have your "Letter of Introduction" you can ring Pinarc on 53 291365 to register for services with us. We will then organise a time for one of our senior staff to meet with you to discuss:

- Your child's needs
- The goals you have for your child
- How Pinarc can assist you to meet these goals
- Service options

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