

Therapy Assistants and the NDIS

Pinarc's Therapy Assistants (TAs) are passionate and eager individuals who have either completed Certificate IV Allied health or are currently studying a degree in either Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy or Physiotherapy.

Our Team of Therapy Assistants pride themselves on being able to:

- Support the current therapy team (Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Educational Advisor or Key Worker) around the participant to develop skills to enable them to reach their full potential.
- Empower people/clients/individuals to become more independent at home, in the community or via telehealth.
- Build the capacity of parents/carers and other service providers to understand the learning and support needs of individuals.

How a Therapy Assistant can assist you:

Therapy Assistants follow programs under the guidance of participant's Allied health professionals (AHPs) to support the participant's goals. Therapy Assistants can:

- Implement therapy plans for Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Educational Advisors (EA) and Keyworker participants, as designed and set out with the relevant AHP.
- Plan therapy sessions to work towards the participant's goals.
- Offer more flexibility and time which can allow greater options for when therapy be provided and increased frequency when needed.
- Bill at a lower rate than AHPs, which means that more therapy sessions might be possible within your therapy budget.
- Create relevant resources such as visuals and social stories when required for the participant.
- Complete research and prepare resources needed to help achieve participant goals e.g., assistive technology.
- Liaise with other stakeholders e.g., arranging supplier appointments, following up quotes, working alongside positive behaviour support therapists or support workers.

How is an Allied Health Professional (AHP) different to a Therapy Assistant:

- At Pinarc an AHP could be a Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Educational Advisor or Physiotherapist. A Therapy Assistant has a certificate in IV Allied Health or are currently studying a relevant Allied Health degree.
- The AHP completes therapy plans for a participant, based on their discussed goals and clinical needs. The Therapy Assistant implements the therapy plans to help to achieve the participant's goals, based on the AHP therapy plans.

Therapy Assistant can work with you:

- In the home
- Out in the community e.g. shopping, swimming, day programs
- Childcare centre
- Family Day care centres
- Kindergarten
- Primary Schools
- High schools

How to access a Therapy Assistant:

Contact your current Allied Health Professional to discuss if this is appropriate for the participant's goals.

Contact Pinarc Disability Support on 5329 1300 or email admin@pinarc.org.au