

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 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 customer 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 the customer's Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) to support the customer's goals. Therapy Assistants can:

- Implement therapy plans for Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Educational Advisors (EA) and Key Worker customers, as designed and set out with the relevant AHP.
- Plan therapy sessions to work towards the customer's goals.
- Offer more flexibility and time which can allow greater options for when therapy can 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 NDIS 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 customer goals e.g. assistive technology.
- Liaise with other stakeholders e.g. arranging supplier appointments, following up quotes, work 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 either has a certificate in IV Allied Health or is currently studying a relevant Allied Health degree.
- The AHP completes therapy plans for a customer, based on their discussed goals and clinical needs. The Therapy Assistant implements the therapy plans to help to achieve the customer's goals, based on the AHP therapy plans.

Therapy Assistants can work with you in different settings, including:

- In the home
- Out in the community e.g. shopping, swimming, day programs
- Childcare Centre
- Family Day Care Centre
- 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 customer's goals.
- Contact Pinarc Disability Support on 1800 746 272 or email admin@pinarc.org.au to discuss your needs with our team.

