



Australian Government



Thriving Kids

Thriving Kids Factsheet

As at 30 September 2026.

This factsheet covers the first phase of Thriving Kids rollout, commencing from October 2026. Updated information will be provided as supports rollout.

Purpose

The purpose of this factsheet is to:

- Help people who **work with, and regularly spend time with**, children and families to understand Thriving Kids and its impact on current and future practices.
- Ensure families, carers and kin (families) **can be connected** to Thriving Kids supports where appropriate.

Overview

Thriving Kids is an improved national approach to early intervention for children 8 and under with extra developmental needs, that will build on existing systems of support for children and families in their community and works alongside the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

It will support children with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs and their families.

Thriving Kids will be child and family-centred, evidence-based, culturally appropriate, inclusive and mostly delivered in everyday locations.

Australian, state and territory governments are working together to deliver Thriving Kids.

While all governments have agreed on a Thriving Kids national model, services will look different across different communities. This reflects existing local programs, systems and where investment can have the greatest impact, while keeping the same goal everywhere: helping children and families access the development-focused support they need.

Thriving Kids will progressively roll out from October 2026 and supports will grow over time. All supports will be rolled out by 1 January 2028 when NDIS access changes take place.

How people access the NDIS won't change until 1 January 2028. For now, children aged 8 and under can continue to apply for the NDIS in the same way.

For more information on Thriving Kids, families and professionals are encouraged to visit the [Thriving Kids Information and Resources Hub](https://raisingchildren.net.au/thrivingkids) (<https://raisingchildren.net.au/thrivingkids>) or the [Thriving Kids website](https://www.health.gov.au/thrivingkids) (<https://www.health.gov.au/thrivingkids>).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Thriving Kids?

Children learn and develop differently. Some may need extra support with their communication, learning, behaviour, movement, or social skills. Thriving Kids is an improved approach to early intervention being delivered by governments to support children aged 8 and under who need extra support with their development.

Thriving Kids will provide:

- Information and advice about child development, developmental delay and autism and help for families to find the right supports. This includes accessible supports online and over the phone.
- Help to identify additional developmental needs early. This includes child health and development checks including new checks for three-year-olds through general practitioners (GPs) and existing state and territory health and development checks.
- Programs for families that help support their child's development, offering practical tools, advice and connection to other families. This includes things like peer support, facilitated playgroups, parenting groups and courses.
- Goal oriented targeted supports (such as allied health) for families and children who have been identified, based on their level of function, as needing more support.

2. When will support be available?

Thriving Kids will progressively roll out from October 2026 and will grow over time.

You can expect to see some general supports (such as information, advice and parenting supports) rollout from October 2026. These general supports will continue to build over time. Targeted supports will gradually roll out from 2027. However, roll out will vary based on jurisdiction and location.

All supports will be rolled out by 1 January 2028 when NDIS access changes take place.

3. How will children and families access Thriving Kids?

Thriving Kids is focused on children aged 8 and under with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs, and their families. Children won't need a diagnosis to get support.

Thriving Kids will not provide individualised funding for children and families, like the NDIS. Instead, community-based supports will be funded to assist children and families.

If you know a parent or family member with a concern, the [Thriving Kids Information and Resources Hub](#) or [Thriving Kids website](#), parenting advice phone lines (including those listed further below), or other professionals you might be familiar with, such as their GP, maternal child nurse or paediatrician are a good place to start for information, advice, and resources about child development and autism.

If families wish to learn more about accessing Thriving Kids supports in their local area they should visit: [state and territory webpages](https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/thriving-kids/state-and-territory-governments) (<https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/thriving-kids/state-and-territory-governments>).

4. How do I connect a child and families to Thriving Kids and how can a family find more information?

Thriving Kids supports will grow over time and will work alongside existing mainstream services and the NDIS. For information on what Thriving Kids is, families are encouraged to visit the [Thriving Kids Information and Resources Hub](#) or the [Thriving Kids website](#).

National information, advice and resources are now available and are an easy place to start when families are unsure what might be going on for their child. Families, and the professionals who support them, can access advice and information about child development and autism through:

- **[Thriving Kids Information and Resources Hub](https://raisingchildren.net.au/thrivingkids)** (<https://raisingchildren.net.au/thrivingkids>) – evidence-based information and resources for families and professionals on childhood development, developmental delay and neurodevelopmental difference.
- **A national phoneline (1800 882 436 or by [video call](#), 7am to midnight, 7 days a week)** – expert advice from maternal and child health nurses on child development and behaviour.
- **Thriving Kids Autism Helpline (1300 654 789, 8am to 7pm, Monday to Friday)** – autism-specific information and advice for families with children aged 0 to 8 who may be on a journey to an autism diagnosis or have a diagnosis (or <https://www.amaze.org.au/thrivingkids>).

State and territory services will progressively roll out and will vary based on jurisdiction and location. States and territories are responsible for delivering most Thriving Kids services, building on their existing service systems and local expertise. To learn more about Thriving Kids supports available locally in your state or territory visit: [state and territory webpages](#).

You may also connect families with one of the [NDIS Early Childhood Partners](#). Partners will continue to deliver the early childhood approach for children younger than 9 with delays in their development or disability, including early supports and providing connections with mainstream and community supports, and to the NDIS. Families can connect with partners directly by using the [office finder](#) on the NDIS website. Families can also call the National Disability Insurance Agency if they are unsure on who their partner is, on 1800 800 110.

5. What do I tell families during the rollout period?

There are no changes to NDIS access or pathways until 1 January 2028. For now, children aged 8 and under can continue to apply for the NDIS in the same way. Thriving Kids will progressively roll out from October 2026 and supports will grow over time. All supports will be rolled out by 1 January 2028 when NDIS access changes take place.

6. What does low to moderate supports needs mean?

Australian, state and territory governments are working together to define and describe when a child with developmental delay and/or autism may have low to moderate support needs. This will enable a nationally consistent approach and ensure children and families access appropriate support as early as possible, from the right system of supports when needed.

7. How are governments working together?

Australian, state and territory governments are working together to deliver Thriving Kids supports at a national and state/territory level. You can read more about the different roles of governments in the [National Agreement on Foundational Supports](#).

8. What role can professionals play?

Professionals play a key role helping families identify where their child may have a developmental delay and/or autism and connecting them to supports where needed.

In addition to the information above on how to connect families to Thriving Kids, a new Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) health assessment service called the [Medicare Healthy Kids Check](#) will be available from 1 November 2026, subject to the passage of legislation. This will support GPs to assess a child's health, wellbeing and development at age 3, and connect them to appropriate supports or for further assessment, where required. This check will complement existing child health and development checks, including those provided under state and territory programs.

The Australian Government is also working with state and territory governments to help professionals understand Thriving Kids as it is rolled out and further build their skills and knowledge on child development, developmental delay and autism.

Resources and information for professionals are being developed and will expand over time. Further details will be shared with relevant workforces through targeted communication channels.

9. What changes are happening to the NDIS?

There are no immediate changes to the NDIS. For now, children aged 8 and under can continue to apply for the NDIS in the same way or seek support from the [early childhood approach](#). This includes children with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs.

Thriving Kids supports will be available before changes to NDIS access begin on 1 January 2028. Read more about [how access to the NDIS is changing](#) from 1 January 2028.