

## EARLY INTERVENTION

Evidence shows that targeted early intervention for children with these specific disabilities better prepares them for the transition to school.

Children who are registered with Better Start can access up to \$12,000 in funding (up to a maximum of \$6,000 per financial year) to pay for early intervention services delivered by members of the Early Intervention panel. These services include:

- Audiology
- Occupational therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology
- Orthoptics
- Speech pathology

Families living in outer regional and remote areas may be eligible for a one-off payment of \$2,000. This payment is to assist with the additional expenses associated with accessing services, such as travel or home visits.

To contact and register for Better Start call the Carers Association in your state or territory on 1800 242 636.



For more information go to [www.betterstart.net.au](http://www.betterstart.net.au)

### CARERS ACT

80 Beaufort Crescent  
Holt ACT 2615  
Ph (02) 6296 9900  
[betterstart@carersact.asn.au](mailto:betterstart@carersact.asn.au)  
[www.carersact.asn.au](http://www.carersact.asn.au)

### CARERS NT

59 Bayview Boulevard  
Bayview NT 0800  
Ph (08) 8944 4888  
[carersnt@carersnt.asn.au](mailto:carersnt@carersnt.asn.au)  
[www.nt.carersaustralia.com.au](http://www.nt.carersaustralia.com.au)

### CARERS NSW

PO Box 20156  
World Square NSW 2002  
Ph 1800 242 636  
[betterstart@carersnsw.asn.au](mailto:betterstart@carersnsw.asn.au)  
[www.carersnsw.asn.au](http://www.carersnsw.asn.au)

### CARERS QUEENSLAND

15 Abbott Street  
Camp Hill QLD 4152  
Ph (07) 3900 8100  
[betterstart@carersqld.asn.au](mailto:betterstart@carersqld.asn.au)  
[www.carersqld.asn.au](http://www.carersqld.asn.au)

### CARERS SA

58 King William Road  
Goodwood SA 5034  
Ph (08) 8291 5600  
[betterstart@carers-sa.asn.au](mailto:betterstart@carers-sa.asn.au)  
[www.carers-sa.asn.au](http://www.carers-sa.asn.au)

### CARERS TASMANIA

64 Burnett Street  
North Hobart TAS 7000  
Ph (03) 6231 5507  
[betterstart@carerstas.org](mailto:betterstart@carerstas.org)  
[www.carerstas.org](http://www.carerstas.org)

### CARERS VICTORIA

Level 1, 37 Albert Street  
Footscray VIC 3011  
Ph (03) 9396 9500  
[betterstart@carersvictoria.org.au](mailto:betterstart@carersvictoria.org.au)  
[www.carersvictoria.org.au](http://www.carersvictoria.org.au)

### CARERS WA

182 Lord Street  
Perth WA 6000  
Ph (08) 9228 7400  
[betterstart@carerswa.asn.au](mailto:betterstart@carerswa.asn.au)  
[www.wa.carersaustralia.com.au](http://www.wa.carersaustralia.com.au)



Australian Government  
Department of Families,  
Housing, Community Services  
and Indigenous Affairs



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Better Start  
for Children  
with Disability

ph 1800 242 636  
[www.betterstart.net.au](http://www.betterstart.net.au)



The Better Start for Children with Disability initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

The Better Start Registration and Information Service is delivered by qualified staff in the Carers Associations in each of the states and territories.

The Registration and Information Service assists parents and carers by informing them about the Better Start initiative, registration and early intervention service options.

## ABOUT BETTER START

Better Start provides funding for early intervention services. To access Better Start children with an eligible diagnosis must register before they turn 6 years old. Families will have until the child turns 7 to access funding.

Children are eligible for Better Start if diagnosed with one of the following disabilities:

- Cerebral palsy
- Deafblindness
- Down syndrome, including mosaic Down syndrome
- Fragile X syndrome with full mutation
- Hearing impairment
- Vision impairment.

The thresholds that apply to these disabilities have been determined by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in conjunction with advice provided by an Expert Reference Group.

## BETTER START ELIGIBILITY THRESHOLDS

### Cerebral palsy

All children with a confirmed diagnosis of cerebral palsy will be eligible for Better Start.

### Deafblindness

All children with a diagnosis made by a specialist multidisciplinary team which includes an ophthalmological and audiological evaluation (therefore application of a threshold is not necessary) will be eligible.

### Down syndrome

All children with a confirmed diagnosis of Down syndrome, including those with mosaic Down syndrome, will be eligible.

### Fragile X syndrome

All children will be eligible if they have a confirmed diagnosis of Fragile X syndrome with full mutation.

### Hearing impairment

Children will be eligible if they have a hearing loss of 40 decibels or greater in the better ear, across four frequencies (including children with permanent conductive hearing loss and auditory neuropathy).

### Sight impairment

Children will be eligible if they have vision of less than or equal to 6/18 or equivalent field loss, in the better eye with correction.