



Fact sheet

Thriving Kids in Western Australia

April 2026

The Western Australian (WA) Government is committed to building safe and inclusive communities. Thriving Kids supports for children 0-8 years with developmental delay and/or autism will be progressively rolled out in WA from 1 October 2026.

Early intervention support for children and families

Thriving Kids in WA will include new supports for children 0-8 years with developmental delay and/or autism who have low to moderate support needs, and their families and caregivers.

Thriving Kids will not require a diagnosis to access support. The program will build on existing WA services and include things like:

- information, advice and navigation support
- parenting and family capacity building programs
- targeted small group and individual allied health therapy for children.

Guided by early childhood intervention best practice, this includes a focus on family-based capacity building and supports that are delivered in everyday settings. It also includes partnering with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and organisations supporting culturally and linguistically diverse families to ensure Thriving Kids is accessible and culturally responsive.

Some new services will become available across WA from October 2026. We will work in partnership with the sector and community to build capacity so that services can reach full rollout by January 2028.

We want to design these supports with families and service providers

We have undertaken targeted consultation with young people and families on the design and implementation of WA Thriving Kids.

We intend to continue to engage to develop WA Thriving Kids in a way that works for people in their locations, including those delivering services in regional and remote areas. Consultations will occur with:

- Families, parents, children and those with lived experience
- Aboriginal community organisations, families and communities
- Culturally and linguistically diverse families and service providers



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- Disability advocacy and service delivery organisations
- Metropolitan, regional and remote communities and services

We will continue to publish information about WA Thriving Kids, including upcoming consultation, engagement and briefings on our website at:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/thriving-kids>

We are delivering these new supports with the Australian Government

WA Thriving Kids supports are part of national changes to the way all governments support these children outside of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The Australian Government will provide complementary national services to improve awareness of developmental delay and neurodevelopmental difference, and to support families with early identification. You can find more information about what the Australian Government will deliver at <https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/thriving-kids>.

Changes to NDIS access for children will not be introduced until 2028

Changes to NDIS access are expected to commence from 1 January 2028 and will be limited to children aged 8 years and under with developmental delay and/or autism who have low to moderate support needs.

These changes will not affect children who are enrolled in the NDIS prior to 1 January 2028.

Children with permanent and significant disability will continue to be eligible for the NDIS, subject to usual NDIS arrangements.