

Who can help?



If you are worried about your child's development, talking to a professional may help you and your child. This information explains what different professionals do to provide support.

General Practitioner (GP)

A GP is a medical doctor who works with people of all ages. A GP can help with assessing physical and mental health needs for you and your child. In Australia, you often need to see your GP to get a referral to many other professionals.



Psychologists

Psychologists (sometimes called 'psychs') can help people with their thinking, emotions, learning new skills or behaviour. Sometimes psychologists work with people in groups and sometimes they will talk to people by themselves. They can support parents and children with new ideas and strategies to try that might help.

Paediatricians

Paediatricians are medical doctors who specialise in the medical care of infants, children and teenagers. They can work in hospitals or in the community. They can also refer your child to other professionals for extra support.

Audiologists

Audiologists are specialists who can find out if people have hearing problems and can often help improve people's hearing.

Psychiatrists

A psychiatrist is a medical doctor who specialises in mental health. Psychiatrists diagnose, treat and support mental, emotional and behavioural differences. They work in different ways and can use a combination of approaches including counselling and medication.

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Physiotherapists

Physiotherapists (sometimes called physios) work with people of all ages when they need help with their bones, muscles, and other parts of the body. Physios can support people with specific exercises or physical aids that help them manage better.

Occupational Therapists

Occupational Therapists (sometimes called OTs) help your child to participate in everyday activities including:

- Looking after themselves – for example: Feeding themselves, getting dressed, brushing teeth, toileting
- Taking part in activities at home, school, work and in the community – for example: Writing, using scissors, coping with sensory differences (e.g. food sensitivities, loud sounds, bright lights etc.) using public transport
- Taking part in activities they enjoy for example: Playing with others, connecting with others with similar interests. OT's can also provide tools or supports to help people take part in activities they enjoy.

Teachers

help children learn skills like reading and writing, including children that need extra help, or learn and behave differently. Talking to your child's teacher can help them to better understand how to support your child.

Social workers

Social workers can help people to cope with problems and guide them when facing challenges. Social Workers can help with managing priorities and helping people find the right supports.

Speech Pathologists/Therapists

Speech Pathologists help people to communicate. Communication involves more than just speaking and listening. It also involves hearing, understanding, social interactions, reading, writing and using voice. Speech Pathologists can help people to use and understand words/language. Sometimes they help people to find alternative ways to communicate such as using speech devices, computers, mobile phones, objects, picture boards, gestures, sign language.

Telehealth

Telehealth is when you have an appointment with a healthcare provider by phone or video call. Many GPs, specialists and other healthcare workers offer a telehealth consultation when a physical examination isn't necessary or not possible. It doesn't replace visits to the doctor, but can be a helpful option when you can't see a doctor face to face.