



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Thriving Kids

Advisory Group Report

Summary

Part 1





Australian Government

Department of Health,
Disability and Ageing

The Australian Government Department of Health Disability and Ageing wrote this.

We say **DHDA** for short.

When you see the word **we** it means DHDA.



We wrote this in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

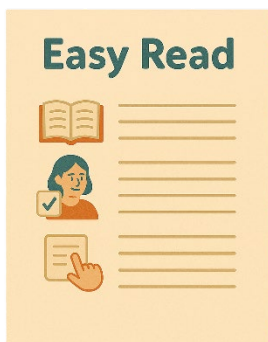
Bold

We have some words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.

These are important words.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it has the most important ideas.



We can answer any questions by email.

Email us

thrivingkidssecretariat@health.gov.au



You can ask for help to read this document.

You can ask

- A friend
- Family members
- A support person.



We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the **Traditional Owners** of the land we live on.



They were the **first people** to live on and use the

- Land
- Waters.

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About this document



This is a summary of the **Thriving Kids Advisory Group** report.

We call them the **Advisory Group** for short.



An advisory group is a group of people who

- Share their **expertise**
- Go to meetings
- Help make decisions.

Expertise is knowing a lot about something.



The Advisory Group wrote a report about **Thriving Kids**.



Thriving Kids

- Are new supports
- Will be different to the NDIS.

It will support children who

- Are 8 years old and younger
- Have **developmental delays**
- Have autism
- Need some support.

It will also support families and carers.



Developmental delays are when

- Someone might be slower to **develop** than other people their age.

Develop means learning how to do things.

They might need extra help with

- Talking
- Moving
- Their emotions.



This document is split into 4 parts.

Part 1

Part 1 talks about



- Why we need Thriving Kids
- The Advisory Group.

Part 2

Part 2 talks about



- Who Thriving Kids is for
- Knowing when children need support.

Part 3

Part 3 talks about



- Different kinds of Thriving Kids supports.

Part 4

Part 4 talks about



- Key workers
- Important community groups
- Other things that will work to help Thriving Kids.



This is **Part 1**.

Why we need Thriving Kids



The government did a **review** of the NDIS.

A review is when you **check** what

- Works
- Needs to **change**.



The review found that some

- Children
- Families

Need support sooner than they can get at the moment.



The review found that some children need support.

But they do **not** need the support of the NDIS.



Families looking for supports now can find it

- Confusing



- Hard to get



- Services do **not** work well together.



The review gave **recommendations**.

Recommendations are ideas to do things better.



Some of the recommendations were

1. For the government to have more **mainstream supports**



Mainstream supports are other supports you get from government services like

- Health
- Education
- Mental health services.

Mainstream supports are supports everyone can access.

Foundational supports



2. Making **Foundational Supports**

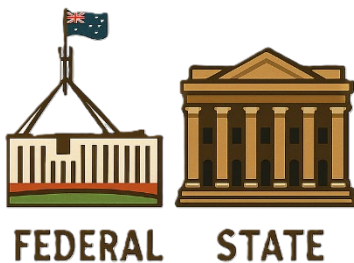
Foundational Supports are supports that are for all people with disability.

It is **not** part of the NDIS.

These would be new supports.



3. Making it easier for children and families to get support.



Governments agreed to work together on Foundational Supports in December 2023.

This includes

- The Australian Government
- All state and territory governments



They have been working on supports for children who

- Are 8 years old and younger
- Have a developmental delays
- Have autism
- Need some support.



Governments will work together to give funding for Thriving Kids.

Funding is **money from the government** to provide services.

Funding for Thriving Kids



The Australian Government will give money for Thriving Kids.

State and territory governments would give the same amount.

This money will be used to fund more services.



The

- Australian Government
- State and territory governments

Will all be **responsible** for Thriving Kids.

Being responsible means the things that you need to do.



This means they will all

- Give funding for Thriving Kids



- Set up Thriving Kids



- Make Thriving Kids work.



Children who need lots of support will still use NDIS.

Advisory Group



To help make Thriving Kids the

- **Minister** for Health and Ageing
- Minister for Disability and the NDIS

Set up an **Advisory Group**.

It was called the **Thriving Kids Advisory Group**.



Ministers are leaders in an area of the government.



The Thriving Kids Advisory Group had **Co Chairs**.

The Co Chairs are the leaders of the group.



The Co Chairs were

- Minister Mark Butler



- Professor Frank Oberklaid.



There were lots of people on the Advisory Group.

Like people who knew a lot about



- Children



- The way children grow



- Disability



- Research

Research means

- Finding out what people think about things
- Using the information to **help others**.



- **Early childhood education**

This means learning for children before they go to school.



- **Schools**



- **Being a parent**



- Healthcare



- **Child and family services**

These are services that help families

- Stay safe
- Be healthy
- Grow
- Get the support they need.



The Thriving Kids Advisory Group also had

- First Nations people



- People from different cultures



- People with **lived experience**

Lived experience is when you know what

- It feels like to have a disability
- Helps
- Makes it harder.

This can include

- Parents
- Carers



- People from some state and territory governments.

Recommendations



The Thriving Kids Advisory Group gave recommendations to governments.

The recommendations said how Thriving Kids could work.

They tested their ideas before they gave their recommendations.

They tested them with



- **Disability Representative Organisations**

We call them **DROs** for short.

DROs speak up for people with disability.



- People with lived experience



- First Nations people



- People from different cultures



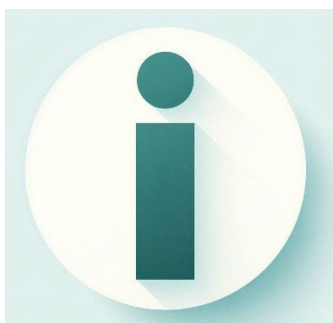
Governments will keep talking with

- People with disability
- The community

As they start to set up Thriving Kids.

This will help them share what Thriving Kids will be like.

Contact us



You can contact us if you **need more information**.



You can send us an email.

thrivingkidssecretariat@health.gov.au



You can look at our website.

www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/thriving-kids-advisory-group

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January 2026.