

CHILD THERAPY SERVICES

Byron Shire Community Health

Who are we?

CHILD THERAPY SERVICES INCLUDE:

- **Occupational therapists** who work with children who have difficulties with everyday living skills such as: fine motor skills (manipulating, grasping, drawing and writing), Visual perceptual skills (interpreting, using visual information to play, move around and read), sensory motor skills (using the body senses and postural skills)
- **Physiotherapists** who work with children who have difficulties with gross motor development, balance and coordination. They promote optimal movement and physical function with strategies to improve muscle tone, strength, posture and coordination. When necessary pain and dysfunction as a result of injury or illness can be addressed.
- **Speech Pathologists** who work with children who have difficulty with swallowing &/or communication skills such as speech, using and understanding language, hearing, voice, fluency (stuttering) and learning difficulties

WE LIASE WITH:

- Child and Family counsellors
- Early Childhood nurses
- School nurses
- Early intervention teachers and therapists
- Paediatricians, other specialists and doctors
- Public, private and catholic education departments
- Families First projects
- Pre-schools, long day care centres, family day care
- Local council CARE team
- Other community based services

Who are the services for?

Services are available to all people in the Northern Rivers with priority given to local residents. Outreach and home visiting services are also provided.

Usually children are referred to our service when there are concerns about their development:



- Very premature and “at risk” birth
- A speech or language difficulty
- Fine and gross motor coordination problems / clumsiness
- Problems with concentration
- Sleeping or eating problems
- Delays in self-care skills
- Hearing concerns
- Visual perception difficulties
- A trauma that has interrupted normal day to day life

Education Groups

Community Health runs a variety of support, education and health promotion groups. Contact your local Community Health centre for more information.

What do we do?

CHILD THERAPY SERVICES AIM TO:

1. Enhance a child's development
2. Prevent delay in development where possible
3. Maintain a child's developmental status
4. Minimise the impact of developmental problems.

THE KEY ROLES ARE:

1. Identify early and intervene for injury, illness and / or developmental delay/ disability
2. Provide range of services including assessment and management of child health problems as well as early intervention and health promotion programs for children, families and the community.
3. Work collaboratively with health team members, families and other relevant agencies to achieve the best health outcome for children

KidScreen Clinics

- Developmental screening for children 0-5 years by Paediatric Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist and Speech Pathologist, with consults from Social Worker or Psychologist as required.
- Alternate Wednesday mornings at Byron Bay and Mullumbimby Community Health Centres.
- Parents can ring in for appointment.

Referring and making an Appointment

To make an appointment to see a Child therapist, call Byron or Mullumbimby Community Health Centre between 8.30am & 4.45pm Mon-Fri. The receptionist will refer you to the appropriate person with whom you may discuss your concerns. Most of us are part time workers, so we might not be able to talk with you right away, but we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

We have a priority system to ensure equity of access to our service. There may be a waiting period for an appointment. In the meantime, it may be possible to send you relevant information so that you can get started on a course of action.

The Child and Family therapists meet regularly with other community agencies to coordinate services.

We are not a crisis centre, however we keep an up to date list of other people and agencies who you may contact for further help.

Because there is a strong demand for our services, we appreciate a phone call to let us know if you can't keep your appointment – we may then be able to reschedule it, and offer your appointment time to someone else.

Tweed/Byron Community Health Services North Coast Area Health Service

Byron Bay Community Health
Shirley Street PO Box 1066
Byron Bay NSW 2481

Phone: (02) 6685 6524 Fax: (02) 6685 5729
Website: www.nswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au

How you can contact us

Byron Bay Community Health Centre

Shirley Street Byron Bay

(on site with hospital)

Ph. 6685 6254 Fax. 6685 5729

Mullumbimby Community Health Centre

Azalea Ave, Mullumbimby

(on site with hospital)

Ph. 6684 1677 Fax. 6684 1880

All services are free.

A contribution may be requested for some equipment or group programs.



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