



**Allied Health
Professions
Australia**

17 July 2025

Select Committee on Foundational and Disability Supports Available
for Children and Young People in New South Wales
By email: disabilitysupports@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Select Committee on Foundational and Disability Supports Available for Children and Young
People in New South Wales,

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear as
a witness to the hearing on Thursday 19 June for the Select Committee inquiry on foundational
and disability supports available for children and young people in New South Wales.

All children and young people in NSW have the right to access timely allied health services to
support and optimise their development, health and wellbeing. AHPA continues to support the
establishment of a coordinated ecosystem of supports for children and young people with
development delay and disability, within NSW, which must include allied health services. This
system of supports must continue to provide individualised therapy along with a broader range of
inclusive supports.

We strongly support the development of systems and models that engage the allied health
workforce across different settings and work types. We recognise work to date and the
introduction of allied health-led screening initiatives in the state. We encourage work to expand
universal and targeted screening by allied health professionals during the crucial 0-3 period. We
also recommend improving access to allied health in early childhood and school settings through
employment and contracting models, as well as ensuring that private sector professionals, with
expertise in development delay and disability, are able to participate in foundational support
service models. Both are important means of improving access to screening, supporting families
and early childhood and education workforces, and ensuring access to therapy to improve
outcomes. While we recognise that lead practitioner models can support outcomes for some
children and young people, we note many families will require other approaches including therapy
delivered by a single allied health profession or models where there is a team around the child.

We are very grateful for the opportunity to partake in this inquiry. As highlighted in our hearing the
allied health sector is often not consulted sufficiently in the establishment of health and disability
systems. As Australia's second largest health workforce and a critical early childhood workforce,
engagement of the allied health sector in the design and delivery of supports and services must be
considered essential. AHPA and our members stand ready to support the work needed to establish
future supports in NSW. We are actively working with our members on policy work to understand
opportunities and needs in a future system of foundational supports and would welcome the
opportunity to stay engaged in the next steps.





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We look forward to seeing the findings of this inquiry and collaborating with you further to design and deliver a coordinated system of foundational and disability supports. Together we can give future generations the best chance to achieve optimal development, health and wellbeing outcomes.

Yours faithfully,

Bronwyn Morrison-Donovan
Chief Executive Officer

