

Why WHR Allied Health?

- Our TA's complete professional development every eight weeks to ensure a high standard of service.
- All WHR TA's are current Occupational Therapy students. They, therefore, have a thorough understanding of OT theories and strategies to promote capacity building.
- Our TA's and therapists work closely throughout a TA program to monitor progress and barriers and ensure the best outcomes for clients.

What a Therapy Assistant can't do:

- Create the Skill Development Program.
- Modify or adjust the therapeutic goals.
- Have contact with the client or family outside of scheduled sessions.
- Liaise directly with extended care team unless OT is present.
- Provide a travel service (except when directly related to supports and therapeutic goals).
- Administer medications.
- Provide medical advice.

Factors to consider:

As our TA's are all Occupational Therapy students, they will be required to complete clinical placement blocks at various times throughout their studies. These can range from 1 – 8 weeks and will often require our TA's to be based remotely. In these instances, we aim for supports to continue with a replacement TA.

Factors to consider (cont.):

intended wherever possible, so the following may be suitable:

- Changing sessions to the evening (if TA is based locally)
- Sessions completed via telehealth
- Sessions completed on Saturdays
- Temporary re-allocation to a different TA

These options are based on many factors and may not be suitable or possible dependent on the TA, client needs or decreased availability. The supervising OT will work with clients and their families to decide on an appropriate plan of action in these instances.

Families can anticipate changes in the allocated Therapy Assistant during the TA's final year (4th year) of study.

Contact

If you have any questions related to our Therapy Assistant program, you can contact your allocated Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist.

Alternatively, you can contact our Therapy Assistant Coordinator, who will be able to discuss any queries or concerns.

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WHR ALLIED HEALTH

THERAPY ASSISTANT SUPPORTS

What are Therapy Assistants?

- Therapy Assistants (TA) are part of the multidisciplinary health care team and must work under the direction & supervision of an AHPRA registered Allied Health Professional.
- The Therapy Assistant will work with clients to build skills, knowledge and increase their independence across various life domains.
- Allow for some OT and Physio interventions to be implemented with increased regularity.

Therapy Assistant VS Support Worker

- WHR Therapy Assistants work with clients on specific skill development goals, facilitating their independence.
- Support Workers may be involved where skill development is slower-paced, or the client requires someone to 'do for them'.
- Our Therapy Assistants are trained and committed to taking a client-centered, 'facilitating with' rather than 'doing for' approach.

What a Therapy Assistant service looks like:

You will be allocated a Therapy Assistant based on different factors:

- Skill set of the TA
- Location- within proximity to reduce travel billed on face to face supports
- Matched availability
- Other factors identified by the therapist that are important for rapport building and support success.

What a Therapy Assistant service looks like (cont.):

- The Occupational Therapist (OT) or Physiotherapist (PT) will complete a 'Skill Development Program' that outlines the client's goals, supports to be provided in the session, resources or equipment to be used and when the therapist will complete reviews.
- When supports are ready to start, the OT and TA will complete a joint session to introduce and implement the individualised Skill Development Program.
- The TA will then provide 1:1 supports, with the frequency determined by the OT/PT based on clinical need. The OT/PT and TA will maintain regular contact throughout this period to ensure progress or regression is monitored and actioned as required.
- The OT/PT will complete reviews, via joint sessions with TA, as determined by progress through the Skill Development Program (dependent upon NDIS funding availability).

During a Therapy Assistant program, the OT or PT remains your primary contact. Any concerns, queries or comments can be communicated directly to them.



What is billed as part of Therapy Assistant supports?

- Direct contact with clients, both in person or via telehealth
- Travel to and from session (unless sessions are completed at the WHR Allied Health clinics)
- Documentation
- Contact with therapists (when directly related to clients supports)
- Contact with broader care team (when OT is present)
- Resource development as directed by OT

Therapy Assistant Fees:

Like our OT's and Physiotherapists, our Therapy Assistants can be funded privately or from the 'Improved Daily Living Skills' section of your NDIS plan. Please refer to the NDIS Price Guide for the most up to date pricing.

Our TA's provide 'Level 2 supports' as they conduct sessions with clients without direct in-person supervision from the lead therapist.

The supervising therapist will have determined if your NDIS funding will allow for TA input and how many sessions will be able to occur and whether this is likely to be enough for skill development.