

# Therapy Grant RARE CARE

## Policy Guidelines Individual NSW/ACT



### Introduction

Variety NSW/ACT provides assistance towards the purchase of therapeutic interventions to assist children that have been diagnosed with a rare disease or condition up to the value of \$1500 over a 12 month period.

### Eligibility

- Applicants must be Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents
- Applicants must live in NSW or ACT
- Applications can only be accepted for children aged 0 to 18 years
- Applicants must be medically diagnosed with a Rare Disease or Condition
- Previous recipients will not be considered for another a Therapy grant until 12 months after the date listed on their outcome letter
- Unsuccessful applicants may be eligible to reapply for a Therapy grant 12 months after the date listed on their outcome letter

### What is a Rare Disease?

A rare disease is any disorder or condition that is life-threatening or chronically debilitating, which is also statistically rare.

For the purposes of the Therapy Grant Rare Care, rare conditions are defined as a rate of one in 2,500 or less. Variety uses ORPHANET (an internationally recognised list of rare diseases and conditions) as a primary resource for confirmation of diseases and conditions. [www.orpha.net.com](http://www.orpha.net.com)

Variety NSW/ACT recommends consulting with your NDIS planner, GP, Specialist, Therapist or Social/Support Worker before starting an application so they can best support you through the process. Please show them these policy guidelines or refer them to our website for my information [www.varietynsw.org.au](http://www.varietynsw.org.au)

### NDIS

Is your child part of the NDIS?

- **YES**  
As part of the application, you will be asked to identify why the item(s) you are requesting a grant for are not covered by the child's NDIS plan. Varying reasons may include but are not limited to:
  - planning meeting has yet to occur
  - funds already allocated to other items
  - was not supported by the NDIS (an explanation will need to be provided)
- **NO**  
Applications are welcome from children aged 0-18 years medically diagnosed with a chronic illness or disability that are not approved under the NDIS.

### Therapy Grant requests

The Applicant can select one or more as part of their grant request up to the value of \$1500. These must be directly related to the child's diagnosis and supported by a GP & Allied Health Professional (please see 'Attachments/Evidence' below). The following will form the basis of the grant and if successful, cannot be amended after the approval date.

- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Hydrotherapy
- Counselling
- Psychology
- Psychotherapy
- Art Therapy
- Music Therapy

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### Therapy Grant requests NOT eligible

The following will not be considered as part of the grant request

- Retrospective funding – only items purchased **after** the approval date will be eligible to claim as part of the grant
- Lessons, classes, sessions or courses which are provided by someone other than a qualified medical professional

### Application

- Applications are open all year round
- Applications are made on behalf of the child by a Parent/Carer or another identified support person (Medical professional, caseworker, teacher etc.) aged 18 years and over
- Applicants will be expected to submit a truthful and factual application & attach relevant documentation as evidence, addressing but not limited to the following points:
  - Name and contact details of applicant
  - Details directly related to the child's diagnosis including Doctor's information
  - Financial documents will need to be uploaded to the application related to household income

***Applicants need to ensure the application addresses all criteria and addresses all the information required or risk the application process being delayed or in some cases, denied.***

### Attachments/Evidence

The following attachments must be included as part of the application.

1. A **GP or Pediatrician** on letterhead outlining the child's diagnosis/condition and the referral to the therapeutic intervention (i.e. OT, Physio etc.).

This document must be **dated within 12 months** at the time of submission

2. **Household Income** –A or B must be attached to the application.

- a. Health Care Card (view example [here](#))

If one of the Parent/Carers has a health care card they need to attach a copy of the card. Variety only requires one parent to attach their card. The health care card must be in date and in the Parent/Carers name (not the child's).

**OR**

- b. Income

For each Parent/Carer that selects option B, they must provide copies of the most recent documents related to

- Payslip if currently employed and/or
- Centrelink Statement if currently receiving any benefits

***Please keep in mind that the assessment process may take up to 6 weeks before you receive an outcome from Variety once you submit an application.***

### Post-Submission and Assessment

- Submissions are assessed by the Variety Kids Support Team
- Eligible submissions are presented to the Kids Support Committee for approval
- Kids Support Committee meetings are held once a month (except January)

### Outcomes

Outcome letters are emailed to applicants approximately 4-6 weeks after their initial submission

### Unsuccessful Applicants

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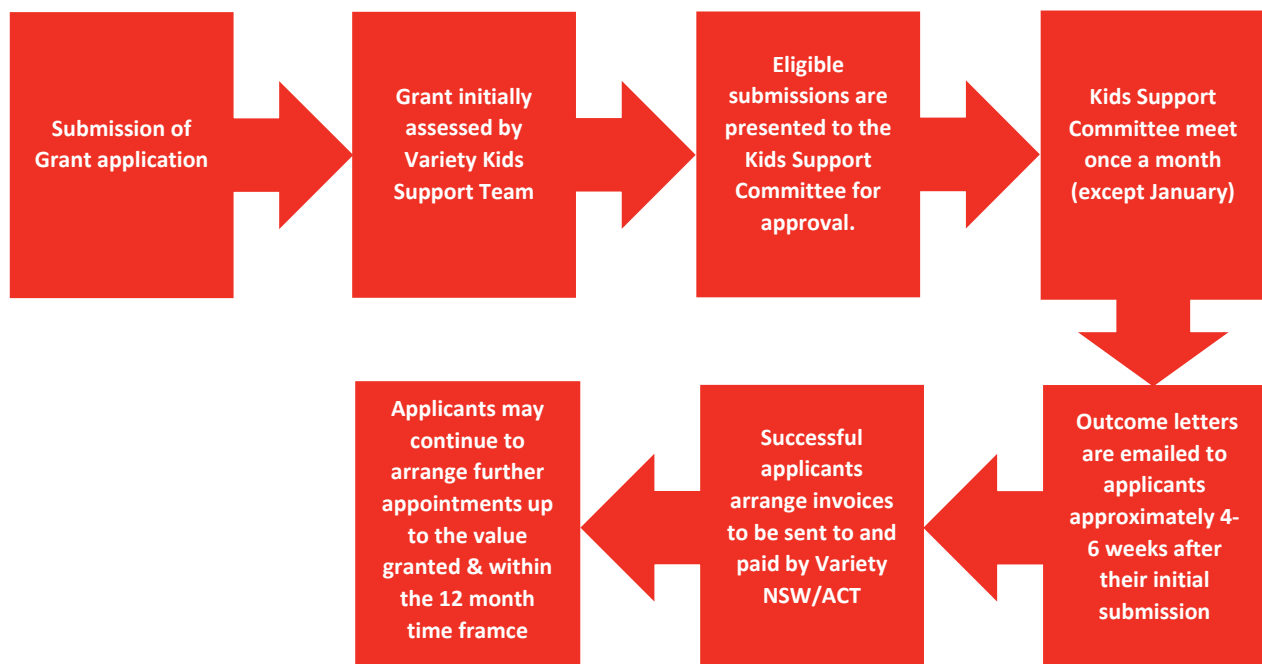


- Reasons pertaining to unsuccessful applications are at the discretion of the Kids Support Committee
- Unsuccessful applicants may be eligible to reapply in 12 months from the date listed on the outcome letter

### Successful Applicants

- Successful Applicants have 12 months from the date of approval on their outcome letter to use their grant
- No retrospective funding is eligible
- Successful applicants are directed to provide their outcome letter to the Therapist associated with their approved granted item
- The Therapist must provide a tax invoice to Variety NSW/ACT and within the approved amount *(please note under this grant, Variety NSW/ACT will not provide money directly to applicants and/or parent/carers; money is paid directly to suppliers)*
- It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to action all appropriate steps after receiving the outcome letter (as directed)
- Any unused and/or unspent funds will be forfeited after the expiry date of the grant

### Application Steps/Process



If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact the Kids Support team on [kidssupport@varietynewsw.org.au](mailto:kidssupport@varietynewsw.org.au)

### Review of Policy Guidelines

This document will be reviewed annually by Variety NSW/ACT with the objectives to be reviewed and evaluated on an ongoing basis. Changes to the document must be approved by the Board.