



Delivering the NDIS in your community

Latrobe Community Health Service is the Early Childhood partner delivering the Early Childhood Approach in the Central Highlands and Wimmera Southwest regions.

The Early Childhood Approach helps children younger than 6 with developmental delay or concerns, and children younger than 9 years of age with a disability.

Children younger than 6 do not need a diagnosis to get support through the Early Childhood approach. Early Childhood Coordinators (ECC's) are Allied Health professionals and qualified Educators who provide the Early Childhood Approach. The approach involves helping families to:

- Connect families with practical information to help them understand their child's developmental needs.
- Connect families and children with services and supports in your local community.
- Provide a short period of early supports (interventions) to help families and children achieve their goals.
- Apply to the NDIS if their child meets eligibility requirements.
- If a child becomes a NDIS participant, the ECC's work with families to support them to use the NDIS plan.

Referrals to the Early Childhood Approach

Referral forms (note: the referral form is **not an application** for NDIS access or funding) can be completed by family, carer, or professional working with the family or carer.

Email forms can be obtained from [Early childhood approach | Latrobe Community Health Service](#) (on the Latrobe Community Health Service website)

You can also come to in person to the Central Highlands office located on Level 2, Central Square Shopping Centre, (at the top of the escalators), 18 Armstrong Street, Ballarat Vic 3350 or 48 Kepler St, Warrnambool, Vic 3280. Staff in the offices can assist families to complete the forms and answer questions on the processes.

Referral forms can also be emailed directly to the Intake and Early connections team at ecei.link.lchs@ndis.gov.au.

Professionals and families can also call 1800 546 532 and ask to speak to **Intake and Early Connection** team and the referral can be completed over the phone.

Contact Early Childhood Coordinators in your local area on:

Phone contact: Latrobe Community Health Service on 1800 546 532

Email :

- Central Highlands: Central.highlandsecei@ndis.gov.au
- West Wimmera: Wimmera.south.westecei@ndis.gov.au
- Intake: ecei.link.lchs@ndis.gov.au.

Further information regarding the NDIS can be found online on the NDIS website (ndis.gov.au).