



# Therapy Assistants

## A Participants Guide



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For permissions requests, please contact

Rebecca Garnsey @ [rebecca.garnsey@inspireaheg.com.au](mailto:rebecca.garnsey@inspireaheg.com.au)

Inspire Allied Health and Education Group PTY LTD

PO Box 275,

Camden NSW 2570

Australia

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Inspire Allied Health and Education Group operates with the inclusion of Allied Health Therapy Assistants within our clinical practices. This document aims to inform you how Therapy Assistants work within our company and to answer any questions that you may have in relation to a participant seeing one of our Therapy Assistants.



# What is an Allied Health Therapy Assistant?

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Allied Health Therapy Assistants support professional staff (clinicians) by helping with participant therapy and or/personal care.





# What Qualifications do Allied Health Therapy Assistants have?

At Inspire Allied Health and Education Group, all Allied Health Therapy Assistants are completing university Bachelor or Master degrees in their chosen professions of Speech and Hearing Science, Speech and Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Education, Art Therapy or Music Therapy.

All Allied Health Therapy Assistants have a current working with children check, national police clearance, first aid certificate as well as training in asthma and anaphylaxis management and child protection. In addition, all Allied Health Therapy Assistants have completed the NDIS training that supports professionals working with participants with complex needs.



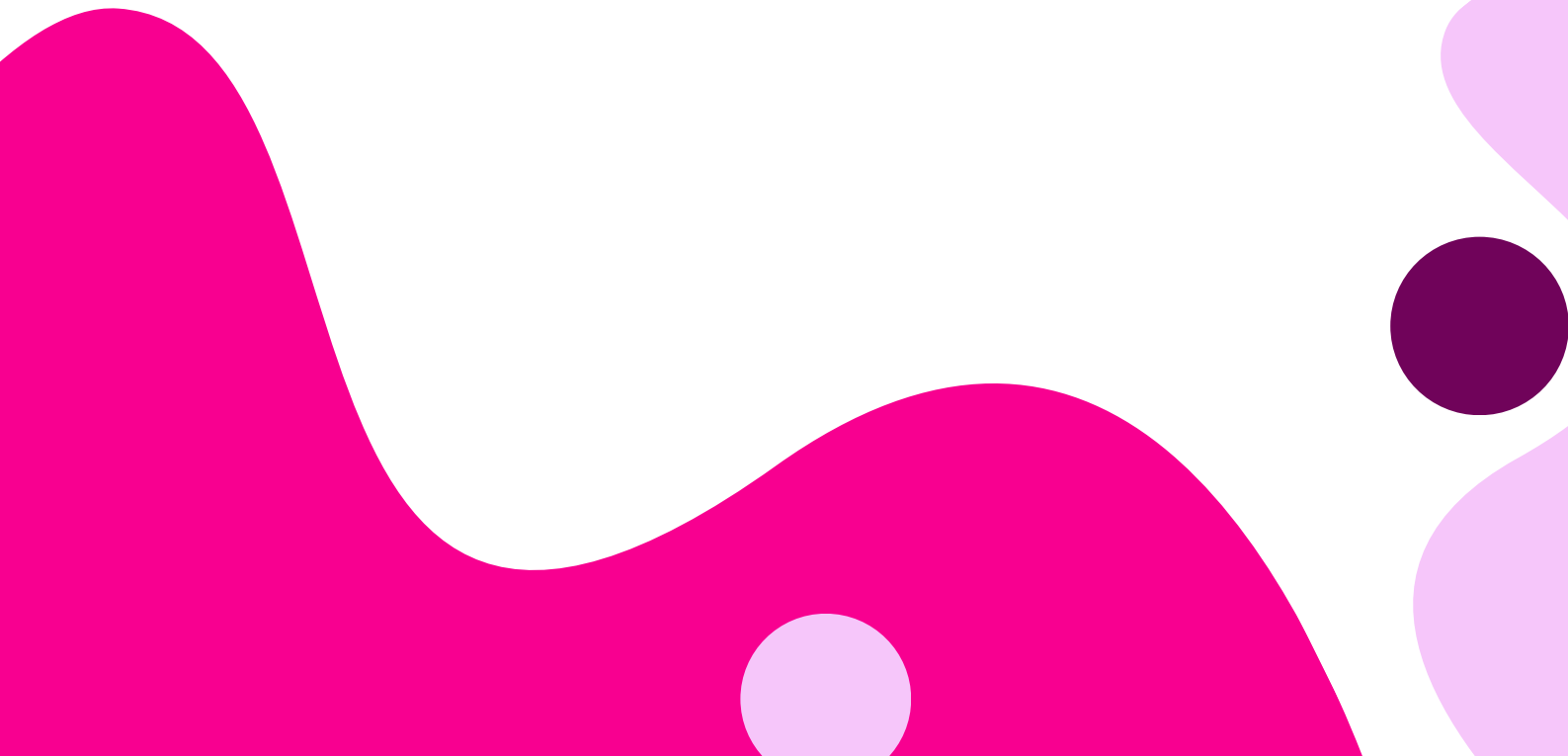
# What is the Role of an Allied Health Therapy Assistant?

At Inspire Allied Health and Education Group, our Allied Health Therapy Assistants have various roles in supporting clinicians and participants and this includes being involved in designing therapy programs, implementing therapy programs for individual participants and in groups, participating in the administration of assessments, report writing, making resources and administration duties.



# Supervision and Mentoring of Allied Health Therapy Assistants

All Allied Health Therapy Assistants are supported by senior clinicians, team leaders, executive team, and chief management team. Allied Health Therapy Assistants engage in weekly supervision, department meetings and team meetings, as well as take part in professional development and educational workshops.





# Are Allied Health Therapy Assistants Different to Students?

Yes and no. Allied Health Therapy assistants are paid employees of our company and handpicked by our management team. In contrast, students are with us for block placements of anywhere between 6 weeks and 6 months in a voluntary role as a requirement of their university degree. Both Allied Health Therapy Assistants and students work in line with our companies' policies and procedures and students are also governed by their universities guidelines. Both Allied Health Therapy Assistants and students are supported by senior clinicians and the management team.





# How Participants Programs are Designed, Implemented, Monitored, and Modified

All participants individual programs are designed, monitored, and modified by senior clinicians and/or management staff on a weekly basis. Allied Health Therapy Assistants carry out the program with each participant as directed by qualified clinicians. Allied Health Therapy Assistants report back to their supervising clinicians to discuss progress, implications and to modify the support services. Allied Health Therapy Assistants write file notes at the conclusion of each session, which are periodically reviewed by their supervising clinician. File notes are uploaded to the participants file.

Group programs and transdisciplinary programs are designed by senior clinicians and administered by Allied Health Therapy Assistants. Allied Health Therapy Assistants write the file notes for these sessions, which are reviewed by a senior clinician. As a parent/guardian, you have the option of discussing the participant with your Allied Health Therapy Assistant or nominated senior clinician.



# Fees and Charges

Fees are in line with private paying and NDIS price guides.

60-minute sessions \$183.79 (Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Music Therapy, Art Therapy and Education).

This is billed at 1 hour Allied Health Therapy Assistant level 2 rate plus 30 minutes of non-direct Registered Clinician time which includes writing and reviewing file notes, planning and preparing for a session, collaboration with parents/guardians, phone calls, emails, writing of goal plans, collaboration between registered clinician and therapy assistant and in clinic multidisciplinary collaboration.



# Attendance and cancellation policy

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Under the Allied Health Therapy Assistant Program, participants are expected to attend all scheduled sessions with the exception of our clinic closure at the end of the year. You can find further information on our attendance and cancellation policies in the Inspire Allied Health and Education Group's Guide for Participants and their Supporters.



# What are some of the limitations of having an Allied Health Therapy Assistant?

We believe that the inclusion of Allied Health Therapy Assistants is of benefit to our clinic and our families. However, there are some limitations that you should be aware of:

1. Allied Health Therapy Assistants are university students and are required to attend classes and placements that vary throughout the year and therefore the participants therapy day, time, program, or Allied Health Therapy Assistant may change. We will aim to have consistency for a minimum of 6 months, but this is not always possible.
2. Allied Health Therapy Assistants are not necessarily offered a full-time position with our company as a new graduate clinician and therefore a participant's Allied Health Therapy Assistant may change upon the completion of their degree and future employment plans.



# Benefits of Allied Health Therapy Assistants

1. Allied Health Therapy Assistants are motivated and passionate to work with individuals with additional needs.
2. Allied Health Therapy Assistants are up to date with best evidence-based practices for clinical practice.
3. Allied Health Therapy Assistants often promote new and innovative clinical practices.
4. Participants have the added advantage of two people looking over their support plan: an Allied Health Therapy Assistant and a senior clinician.
5. We can offer additional support services to participants and families in our local community that we may not otherwise be able to.
6. We can offer newly graduated clinicians' permanent positions with our company upon the completion of their university degree and the participant may not have to change clinicians.



## What now?

If you are happy for the participant to see an Allied Health Therapy Assistant, you will need to complete the appropriate paperwork (including a consent form). Our clinicians or administration team will discuss your options in further detail.

Further, we encourage you to read the Inspire Allied Health and Education Group Guide for Participants and their Supporters for further information.



# Contacts

Therapy Assistant Coordinator (Speech Pathology)–

Alexandra Jankowski

[alexandra.jankowski@inspireaheg.com.au](mailto:alexandra.jankowski@inspireaheg.com.au)

Therapy Assistant Coordinator (Occupational Therapy) –

Lisa Cordina

[lisa.cordina@inspireaheg.com.au](mailto:lisa.cordina@inspireaheg.com.au)

Therapy Assistant Coordinator (Music Therapy, Creative Arts and Education)– Shae Davison

[shae.davison@inspireaheg.com.au](mailto:shae.davison@inspireaheg.com.au)

Chief Operations Officer – Alicia Nicastrì

[alicia.nicastrì@inspireaheg.com.au](mailto:alicia.nicastrì@inspireaheg.com.au)

Chief Executive Officer – Rebecca Garnsey

[rebecca.garnsey@inspireaheg.com.au](mailto:rebecca.garnsey@inspireaheg.com.au)



### **Gregory Hills**

2/51-59 Rodeo Rd, Gregory Hills NSW 2557  
02 4666 4255

### **Port Macquarie**

3/141 Gordon St, Port Macquarie NSW 2444  
02 6500 2869

### **Northern Beaches**

Level 2, Suite 4222-4224, 834 Pittwater  
Road, Dee Why 2099  
02 9170 1765

### **Narellan**

6/38 Exchange Parade, Smeaton Grange NSW 2567  
02 4648 0837

### **Canberra**

5/35 Hinder St, Gungahlin ACT 2912  
02 6210 1820

### **Newcastle**

Suite 5, 154 Park Avenue, Kotara NSW 2289  
02 4631 4845

### **Wollongong**

Mobile services

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