Rocky Bay
HEALTH + COMMUNITY

Early Start Intervention Program (ESIP)

Rocky Bay's Early Start Intervention Program (ESIP) is well-established Telethon and Rocky Bay funded Early Intervention program aimed at providing children and their families with access to specialist and comprehensive clinical team therapy services and support.

The ESIP program is specifically targeted towards children displaying signs and symptoms of significant developmental delay and/or developmental regression, as well as risk factors associated with rare disease.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for ESIP, children must meet the following criteria:

- Be less than 5 years of age AND
- Have a diagnosis of a rare disease, genetic or chromosomal abnormality AND/OR
- Significant developmental delay and/or regression and evidence of two or more of the following identified risk factors:
  - Abnormal muscle tone including hypertonia, hypotonia, ataxia, dystonia and/or spasticity
  - Congenital malformations or anomalies including craniofacial anomalies
  - Diagnosed hearing and/or visual impairment
  - Feeding difficulty/Failure to thrive (FTT)
  - Hydrocephalus
  - Microcephaly
  - Musculoskeletal anomalies i.e. tall or short stature, limb deformity, spinal deformity
  - Proximal and/or distal significant muscular weakness, muscle atrophy or myopathy
  - Prenatal Intrauterine Growth Restriction (IUGR)
  - One or more birth defect
  - Systemic illness i.e. cardiovascular problems, metabolic disorders
  - Abnormal brain MRI findings

Children who do not meet eligibility criteria for ESIP, may still be eligible for our Rocky Bay Early Intervention service.

The Key Objectives of ESIP are:

- To provide comprehensive community based, intensive, multidisciplinary, family centered services and support to at risk children and their families
- To provide evidence-based multidisciplinary early intervention within critical periods of development to improve motor outcomes and quality of life
- To advocate for children and their families to obtain adequate services and if appropriate, provide evidence to assist in meeting eligibility criteria for longer term funding and support from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- To work collaboratively with key stakeholders, community organisations and referrers to enhance communication and support surrounding at risk children and their families

Please follow the link to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) website to check eligibility for Early Childhood Early Intervention services and support: https://www.ndis.gov.au/understanding/how-ndis-works/help-children-under-7

ESIP Service Delivery Model

Rocky Bay is committed to providing comprehensive therapy support and services to participants deemed eligible for the ESIP for intervention.

In addition to key allied health professionals involved, children in ESIP will also be able to access services and support from our Paediatric Feeding Team.

Each child and family will begin their journey with developmentally appropriate assessments to assist in developing individualised goals to guide targeted intervention. Serial assessments will be conducted regularly and information utilised for written reports to assist in advocacy for longer term funding through the NDIS and other appropriate services and supports.

Intervention will take place within the home environment or other natural settings appropriate to the child and family. Our aim as therapists is to upskill caregivers to embed therapy into each child's every day routines and encourage activity and participation to create opportunities for practice of skills to aid motor development.

In addition, each participant will be invited to attend community-based group hydrotherapy and playgroup sessions throughout the year run by our highly skilled ESIP therapy team to enable families to develop their own informal support network.

Referral Process

- Complete online referral form located on our website rockybay.org.au/early-start-intervention-program/
- Provide copies of supporting documentation including any written medical reports or developmental assessment findings completed by allied health professionals (with child and family consent)

For further information regarding eligibility and supports available, please email Cristina Lee, ESIP Coordinator at ESIP@rockybay.org.au

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