

## Public Information Statement – 17 January 2012

Therapy Focus is a not-for-profit organisation contracted by the Disability Services Commission, as an agent of the West Australian (WA) government, to provide therapy services.

As per Therapy Focus' contract these therapy services are for allied health provision (Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy) for children with disability.

Therapy Focus currently holds contracts for the following: Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Metro and Peel / Waroona, School Aged (SA) Swan, Sub Swan, Canning and West Coast.

Bulk funding is provided from the WA government on an annual basis, with a fixed number of funded 'places' per contract per year.

One child occupies a 'place' while receiving therapy services. Therapy Focus advise that the status of our contracts are as follows:

ECI Metro	OFFERING PLACES TO WAITLISTED CHILDREN
ECI Rural	OFFERING PLACES TO WAITLISTED CHILDREN
SA Swan	OFFERING PLACES TO WAITLISTED CHILDREN
SA Sub Swan	OFFERING PLACES TO WAITLISTED CHILDREN
Canning	FULL
West Coast	FULL

Therapy Focus advise that regardless of availability of contract places; referrals will continue to accepted, processed for eligibility, and added to the associated waitlist.

Therapy Focus advise that for a place to become available; another child must have achieved their therapy goals and been discharged from services thus vacating a place.

Therapy Focus advise that of those waiting for a place, a priority system is applied, and that children are prioritised in order of:

- Urgent and Critical Need
- High Risk
- Medium Risk
- Low Risk.

Therapy Focus advise that if places become available, they will be immediately offered to children on the waitlist in order of prioritised need.

Therapy Focus advise that due to the factors required to free up places; the length of time for this to take place is difficult to determine.

Therapy Focus advise that negotiations are continually taking place with parents to discharge children from service as appropriate.

Therapy Focus advise that discussions are also continually being had with our Funding Body to seek additional places/funding where possible.

Therapy Focus requests that waitlisted families and their support agencies provide Therapy Focus with up-to-date information on health and therapy needs, so that we can prioritise the child appropriately.

Therapy Focus advise that they will not pursue waitlisted families for up-to-date information, as this would require personnel to be moved from Therapy provision to Administration.

When queried whether parents should enrol with any other services, Therapy Focus advise parents to discuss this with their Local Area Coordinator (LAC) or contact the other service providers directly to discuss their eligibility and waitlist time frames.