



NEXTPATH ASSESSMENT & THERAPY

IN-CLASS THERAPY

YEAR 5 - YEAR 10



**NextPath**  
Assessment & Therapy



**MATER DEI**  
SCHOOL



# CONTENTS

1. WHAT IS IN-CLASS THERAPY?	2
2. REVISED MODEL FOR YEARS 5-10	3
3. COST BREAKDOWN	4
4. NON-FACE TO FACE SUPPORTS	5





# WHAT IS IN-CLASS THERAPY?

In-Class Therapy at Mater Dei is an evidence-informed approach to both speech pathology and occupational therapy. Each class has a designated Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist who work on the student's NDIS therapy and learning goals in their natural setting - the classroom. In-Class Therapy also allows for regular and meaningful collaboration with classroom staff, to ensure therapy supports and strategies are effective and can be implemented across the week. Parent and carer communication is also a key component of the model, with therapists consulting and communicating regularly with parents and carers to discuss progress and goals.

## Why do we use the In-Class approach?

Research indicates therapy should be integrated into the classroom for the following reasons:

- Children learn the skills they need in the places they will use them
- Children have increased practice opportunities
- Children's social relationships are fostered
- Children don't miss out on classroom activities
- Teachers can see what therapists do to help expand their skills
- Teachers can see if the strategies developed are feasible
- Teachers and therapists focus on skills that will be immediately useful
- Therapists can work with teachers to address problems as they arise

## The In-Class Therapy Model at Mater Dei also allows for:

- A dedicated team of therapists from NextPath Assessment & Therapy working with a large number of Mater Dei students and teachers
- Collaboration opportunities between teachers and therapists
- Therapists attending parent/teacher interviews
- Therapist input to school report
- Predictable scheduling and minimal disruption to classroom routines (e.g. compared to students being withdrawn for one on one services)

# REVISED IN-CLASS THERAPY MODEL FOR YEARS 5-10

Throughout 2022, therapists and teachers have evaluated ICT service delivery and developed a revised model to better meet the needs of students in years 5-8, as well cater to students in years 9 and 10.



This model will now include a whole class 'group' or lesson that is planned and then facilitated by the therapist and the teacher. Speech and occupational therapy whole class lessons will be aligned with curriculum areas/subjects that allow for NDIS therapy goals and classroom goals to be targeted concurrently. For example, we are planning for all speech pathology lessons to coincide with English so that goals around speech, language and social communication can be targeted more easily. Occupational therapy lessons will be dependent on the goals of students in the class, and are planned to align English, PDHPE, maths or food technology. We encourage all students to opt in to the group sessions, to ensure they benefit from the team teaching approach and the additional benefits of having therapy involvement at school.

Therapists and teachers will then be making recommendations for students who would benefit from additional individualised therapy. These students will receive an additional 20 minutes of speech pathology or occupational therapy in the classroom. We will recommend whether students should opt in to individualised services weekly or fortnightly.



# COST OF IN-CLASS THERAPY



In-Class therapy runs for 37 weeks of the 2023 calendar year, starting in term 1, week 1

Speech Pathology		Occupational Therapy	
Face to face Whole Class Therapy Group Session: Hourly therapy rate (\$193.99) divided by number of students in the class (This example is based on 8 students in the group)	Weekly cost \$24.25 Yearly cost \$897.25	Face to face Whole Class Therapy Group Session: Hourly therapy rate (\$193.99) divided by number of students in the class (This example is based on 8 students in the group)	Weekly cost \$24.25 Yearly cost \$897.25
* Additional 20mins face to face individualised session - fortnightly	Fortnightly cost \$64.66 Yearly cost \$1,196.58	* Additional 20mins face to face individualised session - fortnightly	Fortnightly cost \$64.66 Yearly cost \$1,196.58
* Additional 20mins face to face individualised session - weekly	Weekly cost \$64.66 Yearly cost \$2,392.42	* Additional 20mins face to face individualised session - weekly	Weekly cost \$64.66 Yearly cost \$2,392.42
<b>Non-Face to Face Supports</b> Including collaboration with teacher, planning, communication with parents, attendance at parent/teacher meetings and contribution to school reports	Weekly cost (estimate) \$39.32 Yearly cost (estimate) \$1,454.95	<b>Non-Face to Face Supports</b> Including collaboration with teacher, planning, communication with parents, attendance at parent/teacher meetings and contribution to school reports	Weekly cost (estimate) \$39.32 Yearly cost (estimate) \$1,454.95
NDIS reports	Weekly cost \$7.86 Yearly cost \$290.99	NDIS reports	Weekly cost \$7.86 Yearly cost \$290.99

**TOTAL COST FOR 37 WEEKS**  
**(AND TOTAL AMOUNT OF NDIS CAPACITY BUILDING: DAILY LIVING FUNDING REQUIRED FOR 12 MONTH PERIOD)**  
**GROUP ONLY: \$5,286.33**  
**GROUP + FORTNIGHTLY INDIVIDUAL: \$7,679.50**  
**GROUP + WEEKLY INDIVIDUAL: \$10,071.22**  
 \* Recommendations for individualised services based on student's need. Total costs are estimates.



## NON-FACE TO FACE SUPPORTS

We are often asked about why we bill for non-face to face supports as part of the ICT model. To ensure that our approach to therapy is holistic and collaborative, we need to allow therapists adequate time to do the following:

### Communicate with parents/carers:

30 minutes per term for both speech and OT is allocated in funding set up for therapists to communicate with parent/carers regarding goals and progress. We have collected feedback about frequency of parent communication in 2022, and reduced these costs to reflect this feedback, as most parents indicated feedback once or twice a term was preferred.

### Plan for sessions:

10 minutes of planning per fortnight for both speech and OT is allocated so that therapists can plan sessions and develop any resources required for sessions.

### Collaborate with teachers:

Being in the classroom provides an opportunity for therapists and teachers to collaborate regularly, however we also take the time to conduct planning and programming meetings outside of the classroom. 15 minutes per term for both speech and OT is allocated for these meetings.

### Attend parent/teacher interviews:

One of your child's therapists will attend each of your parent/teacher interviews during the year. We usually plan for your child's Speech Pathologist to attend one meeting, and the Occupational Therapist to attend the other. If you only receive ICT for one service, your therapist will try to attend both meetings. 30 minutes of funding is allocated for each meeting.

### Contribute to school reports:

Therapists evaluate progress and provide a written report that is included in your child's Mater Dei School Report. 60 minutes of funding is allocated for both speech and OT to contribute to school reports (i.e. 30 minutes for each semester's report).

### NDIS required reports and support plans:

In accordance with NDIS practice standards and requirements, we must provide a NDIS progress report and develop a support plan in line with your child's NDIS plan dates. 90 minutes for both speech and OT is allocated for these reports.

Please note, costs are estimates only, and we only charge for non-face to face supports that are provided.



If you have any further questions, contact NextPath Assessment & Therapy:

**NextPath Assessment & Therapy**  
A 229 Macquarie Grove Rd, Camden NSW 2570  
P 02 4654 8727 E [admin@nextpath.org.au](mailto:admin@nextpath.org.au)  
ABN 44 054 606 987



**NextPath**  
Assessment & Therapy

NextPath Assessment & Therapy (formerly Mater Dei Early Intervention Program) is a multidisciplinary team of Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Allied Health Assistants dedicated to providing strengths-based, Evidence-based and individualised therapy support to babies, children and young adults.

NextPath Assessment & Therapy is proudly a part of



**MATER DEI**