



northcott
disability services

family support service (northern sydney)

Northcott Disability Services was established as The NSW Society for Crippled Children in 1929. Currently Northcott provides over 50 service programs to people with disabilities and their families throughout NSW and the ACT. Northcott has a long history of providing Family Support services to people with disabilities and their families in metropolitan and regional NSW and the aim has always been to assist individuals and families to access generic and specialist services, with integration into school and the general community, and to provide counselling and specialist advice at times of crisis or transition.

Aim

The aim of the service is to assist children and young people with a disability to maximise their independence and participate in the community whilst providing families the support to maintain their caring role through a family centred approach.

Services

- Individual and family support and counselling
- Advocacy to gain access to resources
- Support to families at points of transition such as moving to high school and from high school to adult services
- Advice about eligibility and how to access services
- Referral to other mainstream and disability specific organisations
- Recreation and peer support for the children and young people with a focus on independence in the community
- Fathers groups, mothers groups and sibling support programs
- Independence and wellbeing programs for parents, siblings and person with a disability

The services will be flexible, and responsive to the needs of families which will be identified through the 'Family Service Plan' process.

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Eligibility

School aged children (6 – 18 years) with a disability and their families.

Priority of service will initially be given to families who are currently receiving a service through Lifestart and want to transition to Northcott. Northcott and Lifestart will work together to support families through this transition.

In the future when vacancies occur, priority will be given to families experiencing early stage stresses.

The service will be available to between 35 and 40 families, dependent on the level of need.

The service is not available for children or young people with low level learning difficulties (including ADD/ADHD) or language delay, or children with short term needs following periods of illness.

Geographical area

The service is available to families living in Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Ryde, Warringah and Willoughby.

When will the service begin?

Northcott aims to start accepting clients in late September 2007, and will work closely with Lifestart in the interim to support existing clients. An information session will be held closer to that time and both organisations will provide existing clients with the opportunity to ask questions.

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family support