



# Externally Funded Therapy and Allied Health Providers (EFSP) in Schools Policy

Document Number	728692
Document Type	Policy
Approval Date	18 March 2026
Replaces Document & No.	015 of 2021
Owner Service Area	Student Support
Review Date	March 2029
Audience	Public

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## 1. Introduction and Purpose

CSPD recognises that Externally Funded Therapy and Allied Health Providers (EFSP) provide important support for children's development. At the same time CSPD recognises the importance of ensuring that external providers meet the quality standards expected by CSPD, comply with all legislative and regulatory requirements, CSPD Policy and procedures, and partner with CSPD to ensure that the most appropriate support is provided to our students and their families.

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## 2. Scope

The policy applies to any Externally Funded Therapy and Allied Health Providers (EFSP). Such services may include those services funded through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

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## 3. Definitions

**CSPD** means the Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese and includes the CSPD Support Teams and schools.

**CSPD Support Teams** means Catholic Schools Office at CSPD. It applies to the central office and office-based staff.

**DCJ** refers to the NSW Department of Communities and Justice.

**Externally Funded Therapy and Allied Health Provider (EFSP)** refers to providers that are qualified health professionals who deliver therapeutic or assessment services to a child through funding sources outside the school or system. They are typically paid for directly by families or via individual funding packages such as NDIS plans.

**NDIS** refers to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

**NGO** refers to Non-Government Organisations.

**PPSD** refers to a Personalised Plan for Students with Disability.

**Statutory and Community Service Providers** refers to government and NGO-based child health providers. These include professionals and services operating with NSW Health, DCJ or accredited non-government organisations who deliver assessment, intervention, casework, or therapeutic supports to children and families as part of publicly funded or community service systems,

**Student** means the child/young person enrolled into a CSPD system school.

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## 4. Detailed Information

- 4.1 EFSP does not have an automatic right of access to a student in CSPD school, even if the provider is already delivering a service to the student outside of school. A parent request for access is not necessarily a justification for providing access. Principals have the right to determine the type of access that is provided, if at all.
- 4.2 Collaboration and information sharing between EFSP and schools is encouraged and supported; however, it may only occur once written consent has been provided by the parent, carer, or guardian. With conscience in place, external providers, such as a student's psychologist or speech pathologist, may consult with the school to share relevant information, offer advice where appropriate, and contribute to personalised planning and support.
- 4.3 In determining if an EFSP should be granted access to the school to provide services, Principals should consider the benefit to the student(s) as well as any potential disruption to the wider school community.
- 4.4 Schools are inherently a learning environment and focus is on education. It may be that granting access to the ESFPs facilitates a student's access to learning, or in exceptional circumstances is protective (e.g. in child protection or some mental health cases). Principals should consider that if granted access does not achieve these objectives, consideration should be given as to why access would be granted.
- 4.5 Statutory and Community Service Providers provide potentially vital support to students in acute need. The decision to allow access should be based on considerations pertaining to the best interest of the student, as well as operational considerations. These engagements are typically short term. The School Principals should consult with the School counsellor when discerning

whether to grant access. In the case of NSW Police or DCJ Caseworkers, refer to the CSPD Procedure - Police or DCJ Interviews in Schools.

4.6 In order for EFSP to operate in CSPD schools, the following must be adhered to at all times;

- 4.6.1 All schools and CSPD staff, including approved EFSP delivering a service to a student onsite at a CSPD school, have duty of care obligations toward all students and staff.
- 4.6.2 Must complete the following prior to attending the school for a pre-arranged and approved appointment for service delivery to a student;
  - I. Visiting EFSP checklist;
  - II. WWCC provision;
  - III. Service Provision Plan for individual student;
  - IV. Has completed the [Building Child-Safe Communities](#) contractor training and provided the principal receipt number; and
  - V. The ESFP must have their own professional indemnity insurance.
- 4.6.3 Completion of the mandatory check-in and check-out process at the school on each visit
- 4.6.4 The ESFP must declare all conflicts of interest
- 4.6.5 Ensure the health and safety of all individuals on school grounds.
- 4.6.6 Minimal disruption/impact on the student's learning due to missed learning time through prior agreement in relation to the student's timetable and school operations.
- 4.6.7 Ensure that there will be no unintended adverse consequences for other students, staff and school operations
- 4.6.8 The service provided by the EFSP is aligned to best practice therapy and compatible with the student's educational needs as outlined in their Personalised Plan
- 4.6.9 Whole practices or providers as a business do not have automatic access to schools. If there is turnover in staff, the principal will reassess the access granted. Services must be delivered according to the External Provider Engagement agreement and/or Service Provision Plan for the individual student

4.6.10 Principals have the overall delegated authority to provide access in their school. Principals should regularly review and monitor the access granted to ESFPs and their service providers

4.6.11 The provision of service must only include the student in which consent has been given. It is not appropriate for ESFPs to bring other students into their sessions.

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## 5. Related documents

- [Procedures for Enrolment of Students with Complex Needs](#)
  - [CSPD Procedures: Externally Funded \(Therapy and Allied Health Service Providers \(EFSPs\)\)](#) (Internal CSPD document only)
  - [External Provider Engagement Agreement](#)
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## 6. Further information

Further information on this policy can be directed to the Student Support Directorate via the Enterprise Service Desk on (02) 9840 5620 or via email [esd@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:esd@parra.catholic.edu.au) or the ESD Self Service Portal.

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