



Better Tomorrow Fund - Parent Information

A practical guide for families considering access support through Beanies

Welcome

Beanies believes children and families should be able to access the right support at the right time. We also understand that family circumstances can sometimes make privately funded therapy difficult to begin or continue.

The Better Tomorrow Fund offers limited, short-term access support for eligible private-paying families. It is part of the broader Better Tomorrow Program and is supported by Beanies, local businesses, community supporters and families.

What is the Better Tomorrow Fund?

The Better Tomorrow Fund helps reduce financial barriers to therapy and support services through Beanies. Depending on a family's circumstances and the funds available, support may include a partial discount, sponsored sessions or temporary reduced-fee access.

Support is generally offered for a set number of sessions or a set period and is reviewed before any continuation is considered.

Who may apply?

The Fund is designed for private-paying families who would benefit from therapy or support but are finding the full private fee difficult to manage. This may include families who are:

- Waiting for NDIS access or an NDIS plan review
- Waiting for Medicare, private health or another funding pathway
- Experiencing reduced income, job changes or significant expenses
- Managing caring responsibilities, medical costs or unexpected family circumstances
- Facing cost-of-living pressure that may delay access to services

Every family's circumstances are different. Applications are considered individually and with respect.

What services can be requested?

Families may request access support for:

- Speech Pathology
- Occupational Therapy
- Counselling
- Allied Health Assistant services
- Other suitable Beanies services

Available services depend on the needs of the child or young person, clinical suitability and Beanies' current service capacity.

What support may be available?

- **Partial discount** - the family contributes part of the session fee and the Fund covers the remaining amount.
- **Sponsored session** - Beanies, a donor or a business covers part or all of a session.
- **Short-term access support** - temporary assistance while a family waits for NDIS, Medicare, private health or other funding.
- **Exceptional circumstances support** - a higher level of support considered where there is urgent or significant need.

The type and amount of support offered will depend on the family's circumstances, likely benefit, available funds and service capacity.

How does the application process work?

1. Complete the Better Tomorrow Fund family application form.
2. Tell us about the support you are seeking, your current funding situation and what your family could reasonably contribute.
3. Beanies reviews the application with care and considers need, likely benefit, urgency, other funding options, available funds and service capacity.
4. Beanies contacts you with an outcome: approved, waitlisted or declined.
5. If support is approved, Beanies confirms the support type, family contribution, number of sessions or support period, and review date.

Submitting an application does not guarantee approval. The Fund is limited and support is subject to availability.

How are decisions made?

Applications are reviewed with dignity, care and consistency. Beanies considers:

- The financial barrier affecting access to private therapy
- The likely benefit for the child or young person
- The urgency of support
- Whether other funding options are available
- The family's ability to attend consistently and make good use of the support
- The funds and appointment capacity currently available

What happens if support is approved?

Beanies will explain the approved arrangement in writing, including the family contribution, number of supported sessions or time period, and the date the arrangement will be reviewed.

Support is temporary and may change or conclude after review. Approval does not guarantee ongoing reduced-fee or sponsored services.

Attendance and review

Families receiving support are expected to attend scheduled sessions consistently and provide reasonable notice if they cannot attend. Repeated non-attendance may result in support being withdrawn so it can be offered to another family.

Support is commonly reviewed after a set period or number of sessions, or earlier if family circumstances change. The review may consider attendance, ongoing need, available funding and service capacity.

Other funding options

The Better Tomorrow Fund is not intended to replace NDIS, Medicare, private health or other available funding. Where appropriate, Beanies may encourage families to explore these pathways while receiving temporary assistance.

Privacy and respect

Applications are handled with care and respect. Information provided by families is used to assess the application and manage any approved support. Family privacy and confidentiality will be protected.

Frequently asked questions

Does applying guarantee support?

No. Support depends on the application, available funds and service capacity.

Can we apply while waiting for NDIS or another funding source?

Yes. Short-term access support may be considered while a family waits for NDIS, Medicare, private health or another funding pathway.

Do we need to be an existing Beanies family?

Applications are considered in relation to the services requested, likely benefit and current service capacity. Please speak with the Beanies team about your situation.

Can support continue indefinitely?

No. Support is limited, usually approved for a set number of sessions or a set period, and reviewed before any continuation is considered.

What if support is not currently available?

A suitable application may be waitlisted if funds or session capacity are not currently available. Beanies will contact the family if support becomes available.

How to apply

Ask the Beanies team for the Better Tomorrow Fund family application form. If you are unsure whether the Fund may be suitable, you are welcome to speak with the team before applying.

We understand that asking for access support can feel personal. Our team will approach your enquiry with care, dignity and respect.