

Dear Dr,

Thank you for your referral to General Paediatric Outpatients (POPD) at the John Hunter Children's Hospital. We are streamlining the process to direct children with **development and behavioural concerns** to the most appropriate service. We now have a central intake point for all GP referrals and triage may result in an appointment at Child and Family Health Team (Wallsend), Youth Health Team (621 Hunter St) and General Paediatrics at JHCH, Belmont Hospital and Raymond Terrace clinic.

To facilitate this change we have created a referral template with a minimum data set that will allow us to understand the child's challenges and link them with the best service. It is anticipated that an electronic referral form will be widely available to General Practitioners in future. Please complete the attached form and **fax it to Paediatric Outpatient Department on 4922 3904** for triaging.

Although many children are triaged to be seen within 3 months, the wait can extend for >1 year. Before referring, or whilst awaiting an appointment, we recommend you continue to address the issues according to the most appropriate **HealthPathway** for the patient's presenting symptoms at <https://hne.healthpathways.org.au/index.htm>

Child Health > Medical > Behavioural Concerns in Children

Child Health > Medical > Developmental Concerns in Children

Child Health > Medical > ADHD in Children and Young People

For some children you may also consider

1. A *Better Access to Mental Health Care Plan* to work with a private psychologist
2. A *Team Care Arrangement Plan* for Occupational Therapy for functional assessment, accommodations and optimising sensory inputs for behaviour and learning.
3. A referral to Greater Newcastle central intake for Speech Pathology p 49242590 f 49242502
4. Request the School Counsellor perform cognitive and academic testing
5. Consider recommending registration with National Disability Insurance Scheme, where it is clear a child is eligible for service.

<https://ndis.gov.au/people-disability/access-requirements.html>

There are also some great parenting supports under **Information > Patient information** in all of the HealthPathways listed above, including the Resourcing Parents link and the Raising children website for parenting, nutrition, sleep and specific developmental differences e.g. Autism Spectrum Australia http://raisingchildren.net.au/state_pages/nsw_support_post-diagnosis_asd.html and ADHD.

Please send in the result of Hearing tests and any assessments done to the **OP fax 4922 3904**. If you wish to discuss this further please contact us on 4921 3670 or 49214102.

Kind regards

Dr Kate Thomson Bowe, Paediatrician & Deputy Director

Jared Allen, Clinical Nurse Consultant

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