

SEVERE MENTAL DISORDER

Eligibility is restricted to a specific set of disorders that have clear and rigorous diagnostic protocols and treatment guidelines. Within this restricted group, eligibility is further confined to those students whose disorder is presenting with sufficient severity that ongoing treatment by a mental health practitioner is required.

Eligibility Requirements

The following evidence is required to be submitted in order for Disability Services and Support to confirm eligibility for funding:

1. Current letter of diagnosis, from a child and adolescent psychiatrist, of one or more of the severe mental disorders, equivalent to the following ICD10-Mental & Behavioural Disorders:
 - Schizophrenia, schizotypal and delusional disorders (F20-29)
 - Mood (affective) disorder (F30-39)
 - Neurotic, stress-related and somatoform disorders (F40-48)
2. Statement from the child and adolescent mental health practitioner who is providing active ongoing treatment. This statement must include the:
 - specific condition that is being treated
 - type, frequency and duration of the treatment being provided
 - provider's signature and the date (if emailed, the document should clearly identify the professional involved)

Please note:

- the severe mental disorders listed above can vary in presentation over time
- an updated psychiatric diagnosis is required every two years for eligibility to continue
- a signed and dated confirmation of ongoing treatment provision is required annually

Interim Diagnosis

A temporary resource may be provided for students awaiting assessment by a child and adolescent psychiatrist. The pending submission form must be completed by the Lead School Psychologist, who will assess whether there is clear evidence of a severe mental disorder and will provide evidence confirming that a psychiatric appointment has been made.

Privacy and Confidentiality

The Department of Education is committed to protecting privacy, integrity of information obtained and confidentiality. All personal information must be obtained by lawful and fair means with the knowledge and consent of the person to whom it relates. Persons must be told why personal information is being collated and whether it may be accessible to any third party.

This includes parents of students who are under 18 years of age.

Parents or carers are directed to contact local school staff for further information.