



Central Queensland MUSIC THERAPY

Newsletter January 2026

Welcome Back!

Can you believe we are already one month into 2026! We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday break, and are starting school, work and other regularly scheduled activities feeling **refreshed**.

Thank you to our participants and families who have organised sessions and paperwork so that we could **start term 1** music therapy sessions **with a running start**. It's been so wonderful to hear about what some of our participants have been up to over the holidays and to get back into making music and hitting goals together.

For anyone who is still working out their term 1 schedule, or may be considering starting music therapy for the first time, **Jess has availability** during the day (some), and after school hours (limited).

New Year, New Signage

In addition to our sandwich boards and easels, CQ Music Therapy now has more permanent **signage** on the **street front**. Keep an eye out when travelling past the Grappling Tribe (whose space we share) to see the new window sign with contact details, a QR code to our website, and a reminder that our office **entrance** is at the **back of the building**.

NDIS Update – Music Therapy Funding Review Process

Following the review of Music and Art Therapy in the NDIS last year, there is a **new process** for **reviewing music therapy funding in NDIS plans**. The Technical Advice and Pricing Improvement Branch (**TAPIB**) of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) now oversees music therapy funding reviews.

The current process includes the following:

- **Requests** for music therapy funding should be **directed to TAPIB** – this includes new plans, plans being rolled over, and plans being reviewed
- The **TAPIB need** to reach out to clinicians for **evidence/reports** in order to **approve more music therapy funding**
- The **TAPIB need consent** from participants/families to **contact clinicians** and access this information

Music therapists are being urged to ensure that participants, Plan Nominees and Support Coordinators are aware of this policy. **For participants** to support this process and **provide consent** for TAPIB to make contact, the Australian Music Therapy Association (AMTA) has provided the following **statement**:

"We are aware that all requests for music therapy funding must be referred to the Technical Advice and Practice Improvement Branch (TAPIB). We give consent for this to be shared with them, and for the branch to contact any clinicians if they require clarification on any details in the reports provided."

The TAPIB have advised that they have an approximately **21-day turnaround** for reviewing music therapy requests, and are currently meeting this target. The AMTA has been assured that, **while the TAPIB review music therapy**, the **participant's plan can proceed**, and **other supports will not be delayed**.

While the TAPIB do not make decisions about overall budgets, they advise planners whether the request for music therapy meets the reasonable and necessary criteria and/or is a duplication of supports. They have confirmed that **even if music therapy is not recommended** (due to not meeting the criteria), **music therapy can still be accessed when the Improved Daily Living category is flexible**.

We understand that this new policy may be a barrier for some participants when applying for, or reviewing, their funding for music therapy. **If you need assistance** understanding or communicating this policy with the relevant people, **please don't hesitate to contact us**.

Thank you!

If you have any questions, please reach out – contact details below.

From **Jess**

Central Queensland Music Therapy

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