



# Parent Statement

## Doing things differently

The following statement was written by and for parents of children with disabilities or developmental delays.

It was developed at the 4th Annual Family Conference, hosted online by Plumtree, Now & Next and Reframing Disability, September 2020

Doing things differently encompasses

We will embrace new approaches and acknowledge that

Our children are not defined by their disability. They

We have a responsibility to

- New strategies in transitioning to telepractice for children and families to thrive during COVID-19 and beyond;
  - Rethinking early childhood intervention as a partnership between parents and professionals;
  - Believing that we, as parents, know our children the best;
  - Being creative with NDIS funding.
- 
- Therapy online is more than sitting our children in front of a screen to complete activities and can include: parents upskilling via programs to better support children, email or phone correspondence for planning, and parent-only sessions with professionals to develop strategies for positive outcomes;
  - Online activities can be more effective and accessible than face-to-face sessions;
  - Therapy is important, but the real difference comes from parents implementing the learnings and strategies in collaboration with professionals between sessions;
  - As we spend the most time with children, we can let professionals know when strategies or plans will not work, and collaborate on alternatives;
  - Connecting with peers and organisations are great resources for discovering new ways to use NDIS funding; self-managing an NDIS plan, if we decide to, can build a unique circle of support outside the disability sector.
- 
- Have the same needs as all children: a loving family environment and stable routines;
  - Learn the best through interacting with other children and people in everyday environments;
  - Are individuals with an opinion;
  - Need the support of parents to develop and be their best.
- 
- Create a vision for our children that enables them to live their best life;
  - Provide our children with opportunities to meaningfully interact with the community;
  - Uphold our children's rights and give them a voice;
  - Draw from our children's strengths and interests to build relevant and engaging supports for them;
  - Empower our children to navigate life, follow their passions and make a difference.