

### **ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY SERVICE**

Novita's Acquired Brain Injury Service assists children and young people up to the age of 18 who have an acquired brain injury (ABI).

An ABI refers to an injury to the brain that occurs after birth, often as a result of medical events, such as cancer or trauma resulting from injuries, such as in a vehicle accident.

A person with an acquired brain injury can experience problems with social interaction, communication, learning, mobility, decision-making or self-care.

The ABI Team is made up of staff from the family support, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology and psychology teams at Novita.

Novita's ABI Service operates in compliance with the Disability Services Act 1993.

### **HOW THE PROCESS WORKS**

Anyone can make a referral to the ABI Team by contacting Novita's Central Intake Team.

Medical documentation will need to be produced to prove the child has sustained an ABI before they can be registered with our services.

Once it is established that a young person is eligible, applicants will receive a letter from Novita verifying their registration.

After a client has been registered, a visit by a Family Service Coordinator and another member of the team will be arranged to discuss the various support options.

The ABI Team can help families in a number of ways , including:

- providing information to people involved with the child who has an ABI
- offering counselling to the child and family members
- providing support to help the child return to recreational and social activities
- liaising with schools, organising meetings with teachers and arranging in-school observations
- suggesting targeted support services such as behavioural programs, respite, group activities, etc
- providing therapy, intervention and assessment at home, school or in the community.

For more information on the services provided by the ABI Team, please contact Novita Family Support Services.

## **IS THERE A CHARGE FOR SERVICES?**

### **Funding**

The ABI program is funded from charitable donations to Novita Children's Services. Some families may choose to contribute towards the costs, but otherwise the services are provided free of charge.

### **Payment**

Some clients will have received a compensation payment intended to provide for their future support needs. In these instances it would be expected that this payment cover the costs of the service.

Where a compensation claim has not been settled it is expected that the cost of all services provided by the ABI Team will be included in the settlement and reimbursed at a later stage. This may be discussed further with your Options Coordinator.

### **All referrals must be addressed to:**

Central Intake Team  
PO Box 2438  
Regency Park SA 5942  
Telephone: 1800 337 443  
Facsimile: 8243 8269  
Email: [central.intake@novita.org.au](mailto:central.intake@novita.org.au)

## **FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

The ABI Team  
Novita Family Support Services  
PO Box 2438  
Regency Park Sa 5942  
Telephone: 8243 8266  
Novita website: [www.novita.org.au](http://www.novita.org.au)