

***Novita Children's Services have limited government funding from the Office of Disability and Client Services (ODACS) to assist families to meet some of the costs of continence products. This assistance is available to any eligible child and is not specific to children who are Novita clients.***

### **Who is eligible?**

A child is eligible if:

- they are between the ages of four and five years
- have a permanent and severe loss of bladder and bowel function defined as severe incontinence (day and night) that is likely to last at least two years.
- parents/carers can provide a health report completed by a health professional (GP/medical specialist/allied health worker or Family Services Coordinator) to confirm child's incontinence.

### **Assistance for Children over the age of five**

The Continence Aids Scheme (CAPS) is an Australian Commonwealth Government program that assists eligible people aged five and above to meet some of the costs of continence products.

Families are advised that in the period just before their child's fifth birthday they may apply to CAPS. An application form can be downloaded by visiting [www.bladderbowel.gov.au](http://www.bladderbowel.gov.au) or contacting Medicare Australia – Phone: 132 011.

If children between the ages of five and fifteen have been found ineligible for assistance through CAPS, they can apply to Novita for assistance if

- they have a permanent and severe loss of bladder and bowel function
- parents can provide a health report completed by a health professional
- (GP/medical specialist/allied health worker) to confirm the child's incontinence
- parents can provide written information that confirms they are not eligible for CAPS

### **What assistance is provided?**

Eligible clients may be assisted to the amount of \$497.79 per financial year period (1 July – 30 June). This is the same amount offered through the Continence Aids Payment Scheme (CAPS) for children five years and over. If a client receives assistance for only part of the financial year, a pro rata amount will apply. Funds can be used to purchase aids/consumables related to incontinence. The funding is not related to family income.

It is recommended that families/carers seek the advice of a continence adviser to ensure the most effective product is selected. This service (The Continence Resource Centre) is located at the Independent Living Centre on 1300 885 886.

## **When can I apply?.**

Applications will be received for children three years and eleven months or over.

## **How do I apply?**

If your child is a Novita client, talk with a Family Service Coordinator or any staff from the Client Services team. If your child is *not* a Novita client, you can complete an application form available from [www.novita.org.au/registration](http://www.novita.org.au/registration), or you can call the Novita Central Intake team on 1800 337 443 for a form or information regarding eligibility. You can send the completed application form to:

**Central Intake**  
**Novita Children's Services**  
**St Marys Office**  
**15-31 Ayliffes Road**  
**St Marys SA 5042**  
**or fax to 8172 9201**

*Note: please make sure that Sections 1 and 2 of the application form are completed and signed before you submit the form.*

## **What happens after the initial application?**

If your child is eligible, the Central Intake Coordinator will forward all information to the Novita department which administers the Continence Program. A staff member will contact you to discuss your needs and discuss the purchase of products and all available options.

If your child is *not* eligible, the Central Intake Coordinator will contact you to advise you of the decision.

If you have any further queries, you can contact Novita Children's Services.

## **Additional information**

As limited funding has been provided, a waiting list will operate when all funds are allocated. This list will be managed on a 'first come – first served' basis.