

'It's good to know we can provide the therapy Harry needs' Making an early investment

Additions on the menu at Le Kiosk

Andrew Priestley

CHILDREN with a disability can now get therapies they need for free thanks to new federal government funding.

Harry Nicholas, of Dee Why, who has Down syndrome, has 45-minute speech therapy sessions once a fortnight as part of an early intervention program designed to help him reach necessary developmental milestones.

The therapy cost his parents about \$200 a month, but now the cost is covered by the Better Start for Children with Disabilities program run by the federal government's Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

The funding is provided under the \$122 million program and is available for early intervention services for children with Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, fragile X syndrome and other disabilities.

Harry is eligible to claim services worth up to \$12,000, which his father Kevin said would cover his speech therapy and additional occupational therapy sessions until he is seven, when the funding cuts out.

"It just takes the pressure off really," he said.

"Two hundred dollars a month, it's not an insignificant amount of money. It's good to know we can



Speech pathologist Angela Kinsella with Harry Nicholas, 4, and his dad Kevin Nicholas.

Picture: MARTIN LANGE

provide the therapy that Harry needs."

Harry had his first free therapy session on Saturday at Kids First Children's Services in Brookvale, which is listed as eligible to receive the funding and provide the free services.

Clients and their families choose from listed service providers they want therapies administered at and funds are directed accordingly.

Lifestart Co-Operative in Frenchs Forest and Occupational Therapy Helping Children in

Balgowlah are also listed as eligible service providers.

A number of mobile services operating around Sydney are also eligible.



What more should be done to help local people with disabilities?
manlydaily.com.au

A PROPOSAL for alterations and additions to Le Kiosk at Shelly Beach has been lodged with Manly Council.

The \$1.25 million development application proposes rear additions to the ground and first floors of the iconic restaurant, internal alterations and an extension of the upstairs front balcony, amounting to an increase in the floor space of about 10 per cent.

Architect Matthew Grant said the alterations would improve the appearance of the building, particularly from Shelly Beach. The restaurant comprises two adjoining buildings – one built in 1923 and one in the 1970s.

"Currently there is a conflict of design between the one and two-storey buildings, with the two-storey building presenting a poor design," Mr Grant said in a letter to the council.

"The new roof form is more in keeping and compliments the lower roof form of the single-storey building.

"The proposed alterations will vastly improve the existing facilities offered by the Le Kiosk business and vastly improve the building that all parties have an interest in."



MEET THE TEAM

TELSTRA.COM/BUSINESS

THAT'S ALL BUSINESS ON THE NORTHERN BEACHES

At the Telstra Business Centre Northern Beaches you can get face-to-face advice from our team of business experts. We understand the unique communication needs of Northern Beaches businesses and can give you first-hand demonstrations of the latest technology. We'll make sure you get business-grade solutions tailored to suit your business.

NEXT AUSTRALIA'S NUMBER ONE NETWORK

BUSINESS



CALL INTO TELSTRA BUSINESS CENTRE NORTHERN BEACHES
LEVEL 1, BUILDING 6, 10 RODBOROUGH RD,
FRENCHS FOREST
OR CALL 1300 880 344

®Registered trade mark of Telstra Corporation Limited. ABN 33 051 775 556. BWMTCW3749