

Orientation and Mobility

Individual Support

Our Orientation and Mobility Service supports children and young people to develop the skills necessary for safe and independent travel in and around their home, school and community.

For people who are blind or have a vision impairment, the ability to efficiently and independently travel is an important skill that allows for increased social, recreation and employment opportunities.

Can:Do 4Kids offer a range of techniques and strategies that can be taught from birth to encourage the development of travel skills.

Individual Support

Target Group

Children aged 0-18 years who are blind or have a vision impairment

What to expect

Service is provided by a qualified Orientation and Mobility specialist who will work alongside the family to support the development of the child's orientation and mobility skills.

- Sessions will involve the child and the parent/caregiver
- Working within educational, home and community settings
- Providing, resources, training and information to the child's family
- Prescription of mobility devices
- Environmental assessments

Sessions can occur weekly, fortnightly or monthly. The focus of the sessions will depend on the child's skills, age and goals.

Aims of the program

The program aims to support skill development in the following areas:

- Child to develop skills and understand concepts that are needed for independent orientation and mobility.

- Safe travel in familiar and unfamiliar environments
- To maintain orientation when in familiar and unfamiliar environments
- Teaching the child the correct technique for using a long cane (please note: not all children who access this service will require a cane).
- Following directions and developing mental maps of relevant environments.
- Travelling safely at night
- Specific travel routes (eg- walking to high school)
- Road crossings
- Managing steps curbs and slopes
- Public transport

Goals of the program

Goals are individually negotiated with the child, their family and educators.

Outcomes

Children will develop the skills that allow them to travel independently, safely, effectively and efficiently. This will support inclusion and participation in the home environment, educational and community settings.

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Eligibility Criteria

Families must be registered for services with Can:Do 4Kids.

Staff

Orientation and Mobility professionals are committed to supporting people who have a vision impairment to use safe, effective and efficient travel techniques. It is a profession that is dedicated to advocating for and promoting the needs of people who are vision impaired in the wider community. In the context of the Orientation and Mobility profession the terms **orientation** and **mobility** can be defined as:

Orientation - A person's understanding and awareness of their position in relation to objects in their environment

Mobility - The ability to physically move around ones environment

Can:Do 4Kids Orientation and Mobility professionals work as a part of a multidisciplinary team alongside Early Intervention Consultants, Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists, Assistive Technology specialists, Child and Youth Development Consultants, Physiotherapists, Social Workers and Audiologists.

Locations

An Orientation and Mobility specialist may see a child/ young adult:

- In the classroom
- In the home
- In the community
- At one of our clinic locations

Referrals

Families can contact Can:Do 4Kids directly or with a referral from NDIS, your GP, Specialist or school.

Funding

Can:Do 4Kids are registered to provide services under a variety of funding models including National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Medicare, Private Health and self funded.

If you are unsure of your eligibility, or would like to discuss the best funding method for your child please contact us for further information.

Contact Us

We would love to hear from you. For further information about our services and to discuss your child's needs please contact us; on

Phone: (08) 8100 8200

Email: services@cando4kids.com.au

Web: cando4kids.com.au

Office: 59-61 Grange Road, Welland