



Mobility & Accessibility  
for Children in Australia

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## **FREE TRAINING COURSE FOR NSW HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO SUPPORT SAFE TRANSPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

New South Wales health professionals can now apply for free enrolment in a first-of-its-kind training course to improve road safety for children with disabilities and medical conditions.

Transport for NSW Community Road Safety Grants has funded 100 places for eligible health professionals in the online training course: *Transporting Children with Disabilities and Medical Conditions*.

Mobility and Accessibility for Children in Australia Ltd (MACA) launched the online training course in mid-2022 to build the knowledge and confidence of allied health professionals responsible for assessing and prescribing for children's motor vehicle transport needs.

In MACA's national survey, only 19% of NSW health professionals reported that they had considerable knowledge or skill in addressing car seating needs of children with disabilities and medical conditions.

The course features contributions from esteemed experts in child restraints, research, road safety and health, and participants learn how to embed safe transport planning into day-to-day practice. Participants receive a copy of the MACA Guide, Australia's leading prescribing resource.

MACA Chief Executive Helen Lindner said in less than a year since it was launched, the training was already making a difference for families.

"We have received an overwhelming response from allied health professionals who are telling us that they feel more confident, equipped and supported in their clinical decision making since completing the training course," Ms Lindner said.

"This is leading to better outcomes for families and reducing NDIS funding wait times for special purpose car seats, which are needed by some children with disabilities and medical conditions for safer and more comfortable travel."

Fiona Nielsen, Occupational Therapist at Wise Occupational Therapy in Wentworthville, said the online training course and associated resources were invaluable for health professionals.

"The MACA Guide provides a framework with templates for a methodical approach to navigate the challenge many families who have children with disabilities and/or medical needs face daily. Namely, transporting their children safely. Now that I have the MACA Guide in my virtual pocket, my confidence to support families in this area has improved to no end."

"I would recommend MACA's training course to all health professionals assessing and prescribing for children's transport needs."

NSW health professionals are urged to apply online as soon as possible, as round one applications for the fully funded places close 7 April 2023. Places will be allocated through a simple Expression of Interest process with eligible applicants notified on 10 April. If places remain, a further round will be made available.

For more information, including terms and conditions, visit [www.macahub.org/training](http://www.macahub.org/training)

*MACA's training course was developed with funding from the Australian Government Department of Social Services*