

# Paediatric Autism Communication Therapy training and certification



Paediatric Autism Communication Therapy (PACT) training and certification is designed for allied health professionals to provide communication support for parents and caregivers of young autistic children. The evidence-based approach helps parents and caregivers understand and communicate more effectively with their child by promoting the development of social communication.

CliniKids is the only service provider in Australia and New Zealand to offer training and certification in PACT. Once certified you can offer the PACT program at your place of work.

## Who can do PACT professional training?

Professionals who have a minimum of 2 years of experience working with families of neurodiverse and autistic children. This can include speech and language therapists; clinical and educational psychologists; psychiatrists; early years, mainstream and special needs teachers; therapists; family support workers; social workers; specialist nurses; and health visitors.

## Course outline

### Level One - Introductory training

A half-day independent e-learning program which covers the theory behind PACT and begins to introduce PACT concepts. Delegates must complete Level One training before beginning Level Two training.

### Level Two - PACT professional certified online training

This level consists of four half-days of online training with a PACT trainer covering the core principles and the current evidence for PACT, demonstrating the model in use through video. The training also provides opportunities for practical application of the concepts through role play and small breakout discussions.

### Group Supervision and feedback session

- A half-day online group session to support the completion of post-course fidelity requirements. Participants are given time to do at home practise, that is shared with the group for feedback and support.

### 1:1 Fidelity Rating

- 1-2 individual supervision meetings with a trainer where feedback is provided on video submissions required to become accredited. Participants provide video submissions of PACT sessions with their chosen volunteers. This allows them the opportunity to practice on the demographic of their current workplace.
- A Level 2 PACT accreditation certificate is issued to professionals who complete Level 1 and Level 2 PACT training as well as pass their post-course fidelity requirements.

## Five reasons to do the course

1. As a certified PACT practitioner, you can deliver the PACT program at your own place of work.
2. You will learn skills that can use in other areas of your clinical work ie video and video-feedback techniques.
3. The PACT approach of working collaboratively with families is transferable to other aspects of your clinical work ie. a strengths-based approach.
4. PACT aligns with best-practice guidelines for early support delivery.
5. As PACT is backed by rigorous research, clients can potentially fund the therapy through their NDIS plan.

## How can PACT benefit my work as a clinician?

1. You can feel confident that you are providing children and families with a high-quality therapy that is backed by scientific research.
2. The PACT program builds on the positive elements on social communication that the child is already using. Building on this, celebrates what they can do, instead of fixating what they can't – a great focus for all your clinical work.
3. It will increase your confidence using video and video feedback methods as part of your broader practice. By highlighting small moments of connection, parents and caregivers can see what and when strategies work. Without seeing these played back to them, these moments can easily be missed.

## How can PACT benefit my clients?

- PACT is one of the few autism therapies to show long-term positive outcomes in social communication
- Caregivers continue to use the PACT strategies they learned well after they have completed the program
- PACT is backed by high-quality research
- PACT is beneficial for children across a range of communication levels
- PACT helps with challenges associated with repetitive behaviour and restricted interests
- PACT supports caregivers to recognise and respond to their child communication
- PACT supports the child's development and self-expression
- PACT has flexible delivery methods including telehealth or in clinic

**Cost:** \$2850 (inclusive. GST) which includes:

- Introductory e-learning course
- 4 half-days of online interactive training with PACT professional
- Group and individual post-course supervision and support
- PACT e-manual and forms
- Role-play examples
- Access to articles and research resources.

**Where:** Fully online via Zoom. Links will be sent to delegates following payment and completion of the Level 1 e-learning program.

