



AWEN

CASE MANAGEMENT &
ADVOCACY

Functional Capacity Assessment





Who are we?

At Awen Case Management & Advocacy, we believe that genuine relationships are at the centre to care. Our team of tertiary qualified, dedicated and highly experienced accredited AASW Social Workers love to foster relationships with colleagues who support individuals living with a disability.

At Awen Case Management & Advocacy, our Social Workers are united under a shared vision of “wellbeing and social justice for all.” We work towards a world where all individuals are able to improve their lives with a focus on personal and social wellbeing.

Awen Case Management & Advocacy works in the support of children, adolescents and their families who are on the NDIS. We believe that all individuals deserve the best level of care. That means having qualified, educated and experienced practitioners working with children, adolescents and family units.

As Social Workers, our role is to challenge and change systems that do not work. We strongly believe that children, adolescents and families must be supported holistically, where those with specialist knowledge in mental health, wellbeing, human rights, justice and disability are involved in such care.

Awen Case Management & Advocacy offers that level of care.

I need a functional capacity assessment.
Can you tell me more?

What is functional capacity?

The NDIS defines functional capacity as an individual's ability to be involved in life situations and to execute tasks or actions, with and without assistance (assistive devices and/or personal assistance).

What is a functional capacity assessment?

A functional capacity assessment (FCA) is a vital part of the NDIS process. It is an evaluation of an individual's ability to perform tasks and participate in life situations with or without assistance.

The FCA is used to assist in determining the level of funding and support a participant needs in their NDIS plan. Functional assessments are evidence that may help the NDIA decide if someone has a substantially reduced functional capacity.

What is included in a FCA?

A FCA assesses an individual's ability in the following life domain areas:

- Communication
- Learning
- Mobility
- Self-care
- Self-management
- Social interaction

The FCA Process

1. ECO MAPPING

A person (and their support need) cannot be understood without an understanding of their environment, as these are interconnected. An Ecomap is a tool used to visualise the person's relationships with the external world and the quality of these connections. It does not only focus on pathology and problems but also on the strengths and resources of the participant in interaction with their environment. An Ecomap assists with identifying appropriate support recommendations based on the unique circumstances of a specific participant in the context of their environment.

2. LIFE DOMAINS

Through conversation, we explore what's currently happening in life and how the participant's disability impacts on this. If age appropriate, we generally discuss Mental Health, Physical Health, Finances, Housing, Social Relationships, Romantic Relationships, Family Relationships, Vocation, Parenthood, Spirituality, Interests & Hobbies and Community Connection.

3. STANDARDISED ASSESSMENT

We complete a number of standardised assessments that captures the participant's functioning compared to similar-aged peers. These tools assess a person's capacity without assistance, and their general participation. In other words, the capacity is not determined by what a person physically and intellectually can do but what they are able to intrinsically engage in without any prompting, reminding or assistance.

4. THE REPORT

All information gathered through the assessment, and review of any shared medical and allied health reports is described in a comprehensive FCA report. The report includes a description of the participant's primary and secondary disabilities, the participant's Eco Map, their functioning domains, updated goals and support recommendations based on best-practice evidence in line with the participant's unique circumstances.

Functional Capacity Assessment



Who can do a FCA?

For the purposes of understanding the extent of functional impact and psychosocial disability, an “allied health professional” including a social worker, occupational therapist, psychologist or nurse can complete functional assessments. These assessments can be beneficial in the access and planning phases.

There is a common misconception that (FCAs) can only be undertaken by Occupational Therapists. However, as confirmed by NDIS, several Allied Health Professionals may undertake an FCA, provided that it is within their scope of practice.

‘Social workers can also design, implement, and assess the effectiveness of therapy supports, which may include assessing and evaluating an individual’s functional capacity.’ NDIS, November, 2024.

The NDIA accepts evidence of functional capacity in any format. However, as a guide, a comprehensive functional assessment from a mental health professional is preferred by the NDIA. This provides the information the NDIA typically relies on to assess whether an applicant meets the criteria for ‘substantially reduced functional capacity’.

How much does it cost a child’s plan?

A Functional Capacity Assessment is charged at \$3103.84 or 16 hours of your Improved Daily Living Plan funding. We conduct all our supports online.

Contact Us ☎

Our Allied Health Social Workers are here to support you with a Functional Capacity Assessment.

Awen Case Management & Advocacy can support families and organisations across Australia. Our team is located in Newcastle NSW and Gold Coast QLD. We conduct all of our appointments online, so anyone can access our care.



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*Putting relationship and care at
the centre of support.*