



30 September, 2025

Statement from DCD Australia - DCD Lifelong Condition

As the national peak body, DCD Australia works to improve the lives of children, adults and families affected by DCD. We advocate for access to services and support; facilitate peer support; raise awareness; and support and educate professionals and the community.

DCD is a well-recognised neurodevelopmental disorder classified in both the DSM-5 (American Psychiatric Association, 2013) and ICD-11 (World Health Organization, 2022). By definition, neurodevelopmental conditions begin in childhood and are lifelong in nature. While children with DCD may learn strategies to better manage their motor difficulties, the underlying disorder does not resolve with age. Instead, its impact often evolves over time, with difficulties persisting into adolescence and adulthood.

Extensive research demonstrates that individuals with DCD continue to experience challenges with motor coordination, physical health, educational attainment, employment, and mental health across the lifespan. These difficulties are not transient, nor do they “outgrow” with maturity or therapy. Rather, effective interventions and ongoing supports are essential to optimise function, participation, and wellbeing.

It is therefore crucial that DCD is recognised within the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as a condition that warrants lifelong consideration. Removing access to supports for individuals experiencing substantial functional impact risks significant negative consequences not only for the individual child but also for families, schools, and broader communities.

We urge the NDIS to ensure that decisions are informed by the current scientific evidence and international consensus: **DCD is a lifelong neurodevelopmental disorder requiring sustained recognition and support.**

Yours sincerely,

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President DCD Australia