



# THE TOP 7 CAREER PATHWAYS AS A DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATOR

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Discover the rewarding and diverse  
opportunities inside!



# WHAT YOU WILL GET IN THIS RESOURCE

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## Explore the Top 7 Career Pathways

- Understand the most common and high-demand roles where Developmental Educators (DEs) thrive, from Positive Behaviour Support Practitioners to Program Coordinators.

## Career Progression Map

- Visualise your potential growth, from entry-level positions to leadership roles in the disability and education.

## Required Skills & Qualifications

- Detailed information on the key skills and qualifications you'll need for each pathway, helping you chart your career with confidence.

## Salary Expectations

- Get an idea of salary ranges across different roles and regions, helping you make informed decisions about your future.

## NDIS Support Items

- Learn the line items that DEs often utilise when supporting people with disability with NDIS Plans. DEs can support people outside of the NDIS too!

# 1. Developmental Educator

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Developmental educators promote the development of skills for people with disability to enhance inclusion, independence, and quality of life. This may include:

- appropriate developmental, functional, and behavioural assessment
- collaborative planning and goal setting with people with disability
- planning for life stages and transitions
- employing evidence based instructional strategies to teach skills in a variety of life domains
- implementing, monitoring, and reviewing support plans.

## Skills Required

Expertise in curriculum design, skill development strategies, and support planning.

## Salary Expectations

Varies widely based on client base and contract size, ranging from \$90,000 - \$150,000 per year.



## Career pathway

DE consultants can expand their practice, hiring staff or developing specialisation areas like play therapy, equine therapy or other areas of interest.

## 2. Positive Behaviour Support Practitioner

As a DE, you can specialise as a Positive Behaviour Support Practitioner, working with people with disability and their families to develop effective behaviour support plans that help to promote and protect human rights. In this role, you'll work closely with families, schools, and disability support providers to create tailored behaviour support plans.

### Skills Required

Knowledge and skills in positive behaviour support including behaviour analysis, evidence based support planning, and collaborative practice.

### Salary Expectations

\$70,000 - \$110,000 per year, depending on experience and location.

### Career Pathway

PBS Practitioners can advance to senior positions, become supervisors, or even manage their own PBS consultancy.



### 3. Program Coordinator (Disability Services)



As a Program Coordinator, you'll oversee the delivery of disability support services, ensuring that people with disability receive high-quality, personalised support. This role does not require you to be a Developmental Educator, although is a career option that allows you to shape service delivery models, manage teams, and ensure that services comply with NDIS standards.

#### Skills Required

Organisational leadership, knowledge of the NDIS framework, case management.

**Note:** You do not need to be a qualified Developmental Educator for this role.

#### Salary Expectations

\$75,000 - \$120,000 per year.

#### Career pathway

From this role, you can progress to senior management or executive positions within disability services.



## 4. Specialist Support Coordinator or Support Coordinator

In this role, you'll be responsible for working directly with people with disability who have complex support needs. You'll help people with disability connect with services, manage their supports, and ensure that they're able to navigate the NDIS effectively. Specialist Support Coordinators must hold an allied health qualification such as Developmental Education. Support Coordinators do not require an allied health qualification.

### Skills Required

Deep understanding of NDIS processes, case management, advocacy.

**Note:** You do not need to be a qualified Developmental Educator to work as a Support Coordinator.

### Salary Expectations

\$65,000 - \$105,000 per year.

### Career pathway

Opportunities for leadership roles in NDIS plan management or becoming a Senior Coordinator.





## 5. Early Childhood Professional

DEs can specialise as an Early Childhood Professional and work with children and families to provide early childhood supports. In this role, you will help children learn new skills, promote child development, promote child and family wellbeing, and connect the child and family to the community.

### Skills Required

Family-centred and strengths-based practice, goal development skills, and community capacity building

### Salary Expectations

\$70,000 - \$100,000 per year.

### Career pathway

Practitioners can move into management roles, research, or even policy development in early childhood services.

# 6. Advocacy and Policy Advisor

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Developmental Educators engage in co-design through collaboration and active engagement of people with disability to understand, explore and change systems together. Developmental educators recognise and respond to ableism in individual actions, organisational and institutional systems, policies and practices, and advocate for justice and change.

## Skills Required

Strong understanding of disability rights, public policy, and government relations.

## Salary Expectations

\$80,000 - \$120,000 per year.

## Career pathway

This role can lead to senior advisory positions, consultancy, or leadership roles in government or non-profit organisations.



# 7. Education and Research

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Many DEs go on to teach in disability and inclusion across higher education settings, including Vocational Education and Universities. As an academic, you will engage in inclusive research, promoting co-design solutions for complex problems, and building visibility of human rights and best practice.

## Skills Required

Academic qualifications, strong research and writing skills, and a passion for teaching.

## Salary Expectations

\$90,000 - \$150,000 per year.

## Career pathway

Researchers can progress to become professors or lead research centres focused on disability and inclusion.



# NDIS SUPPORTS

For a full list of funded NDIS Supports - search online for the **NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits**.

## NDIS Service examples

- ✦ **Support Coordination**
- ✦ **Capacity Building Improved Daily Living**
  - Early Childhood Intervention
  - Therapy supports including assessments
- ✦ **Capacity Building Social and Community Participation**
  - Daily living and life skills
  - Coordinating life stages and transitions
- ✦ **Capacity Building Improved Relationships**
  - Positive Behaviour Support

## Professional Association

Developmental Educators are a self-regulating allied health profession, adhering to a Code of Ethics and fulfilling registration, supervision, and professional development requirements.

Website



**YES, Developmental Educators are NDIS approved**

DEs also practice outside of the NDIS and work with people with disability who are not NDIS Participants.

# Why Developmental Educators Thrive

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The role of a Developmental Educator is diverse, impactful, and in high demand. From working directly with individuals to influencing policy and systems, DEs have the unique ability to shape the future of inclusive practices across Australia.



## Find Out More:

If you have any questions or need more information about these career pathways, please feel free to contact us at [administration@deai.com.au](mailto:administration@deai.com.au). We're here to support you on your journey as a **Developmental Educator!**



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