



# DO YOU REQUIRE HELP WITH YOUR CHILD'S DLA APPLICATION FORM?

The Sikh Human Rights Group (SHRG) an NGO with Special Consultative Status at the United Nations through its Sikh Neurodiversity Network project (SNN) aims to increase understanding, acceptance and support for individuals who possess Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) such as Autism. The SNN works closely with families, children and young people with SEND and helps them to overcome the many barriers that they often face when accessing vital support services.

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) helps to cover the additional costs of raising a child with a disability such as Autism, ADHD, Tourette's, Down Syndrome and many other diagnoses. However, your child does not need a formal diagnosis to claim DLA as it is awarded based on the support your child needs and how their condition affects their day-to-day life, not their condition or impairment. DLA is **not means tested** so it does not matter how much money you earn or have in savings. You can be awarded DLA regardless of whether you work or not.

You may be able to claim DLA if your child is:

- Under 16 years of age;
- Possesses a health condition and/or a psychological disability and/or a physical disability; and
- Needs more care than a non-disabled child of the same age.

We are available to help guide you through the DLA application process and to help you articulate your child's unique needs on the DLA application form. DLA consists of the **Care Component** and the **Mobility Component** which are awarded at different rates of pay which is why it is important to express the level of additional support your child needs to ensure that they receive the appropriate level of care. This includes writing about the support your child would benefit from but doesn't currently have access to due to different contributing factors such as lack of specialist support services within your local area or issues with transportation.

It is also important to note that a higher rate of Mobility can be awarded if your child has a mental impairment and behavioural problems that impact upon their emotional and psychological health. DLA case law has accepted Autism and Down Syndrome as physical disabilities as they are a disorder of brain development. We understand how difficulties with eating, sleeping, dressing, social interaction, sensory overload, gross and fine motor skills, communication, and isolation, to name a few, can contribute towards anxiety, depression and self-harm and significantly impact your child's mental health.

**If you do require assistance or you would like to find out more information please contact Mr Carlos Arbuthnott (Human Rights Officer & Project Coordinator at the SHRG) via:**

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