



Is there any extra assistance for my child with additional needs?

Fact sheet 14

The child care system is changing from July 2018. For more information about the new child care programs please go to <https://www.education.gov.au/jobsforfamilies>

Yes. The Australian Government's Inclusion Support Programme (ISP) began on 1 July 2016 and assists eligible early childhood and child care (ECCC) services to include children with additional needs alongside their peers by providing tailored inclusion advice and support from contracted inclusion specialists, as well as funding to support more challenging inclusion barriers.

What assistance is available under the ISP?

Specialist assistance is delivered to ECCC services by Inclusion Agencies (IAs) contracted in each state and territory. IAs employ a network of skilled staff – Inclusion Professionals (IPs) – who work directly with services to provide practical advice and support to assist eligible services to build their capacity and capability to include children with additional needs.

IPs also assist services to access support from the Inclusion Development Fund (IDF) which is made up of four discrete streams and managed by the Inclusion Development Fund Manager (IDFM).

- **IDF Subsidy for an Additional Educator** – provides funding of \$23 per hour to centre based services to subsidise the employment of an Additional Educator. This increases the educator to child ratio in the care environment to support the inclusion of a child (or children) with disability, with ongoing high support needs alongside their typically developing peers.
- **IDF Subsidy for Immediate/Time-Limited Support** – enables centre based services to immediately engage an Additional Educator for a time limited period, while an alternative and more stable solution is being determined.
 - The IDF Subsidy for Immediate/Time-Limited Support can be accessed where there is an immediate barrier associated with a child, for which an Additional Educator is the most appropriate short-term solution.
 - In most cases, this will be to include a child with disability (or undergoing assessment for disability), but may also include children presenting with challenging

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or disruptive behaviours, where it is not yet possible for the service to determine if the behaviour is associated with disability, or if the IDF Subsidy for an Additional Educator is the most appropriate long term solution.

- **IDF Family Day Care (FDC) Top Up** – supports eligible FDC services to include children with disability with ongoing high support needs, by providing a fee top up payment where including the child results in the educator being unable to enrol the maximum number of children as allowed under the National Law.
- **IDF Innovative Solutions Support** – assists eligible ECCC services to fund innovative and flexible solutions to inclusion including bicultural support, where a barrier has been identified and it cannot be addressed by the support provided by its IA.

A **Specialist Equipment Library** is also managed by IAs in each jurisdiction and is available for services to loan items of specialist equipment that facilitate and support the inclusion of a child (or children) with additional needs.

What are the eligibility requirements for the ISP?

The ISP Guidelines available on the department's website at www.education.gov.au/isp detail service and children eligibility requirements. Section 8.1 details the services eligible for support through the ISP. Section 4 defines cohorts of children with 'additional needs' under the ISP.

What is the process for accessing support through the ISP?

Eligible ECCC services can contact their local Inclusion Agency (IA) to access support through the ISP. A list of IAs by state and territory is available on the department's [website](#).

How can I get more information?

For more information please visit the ISP page on the [department's website](#) or the [Inclusion Development Fund Manager's website](#).

You may also wish to contact the Department of Education and Training's switchboard on 1300 566 046, identify the state or territory office that you wish to speak to and ask for 'Child Care Support.'

Useful resources

- for news and information on child care visit the [MyChild website](#)¹
- to estimate and compare payments access the [Child Care Estimator](#)²
- [A Guide to Australian Government payments](#).³

¹ www.mychild.gov.au

² www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/online-estimators

³ www.humanservices.gov.au/corporate/publications-and-resources/a-guide-to-australian-government-payments