

# Applying for IDF Things to consider

The Inclusion Development Fund (IDF) has an annual capped funding allocation and approval of any funding is contingent on availability of funding and applications meeting eligibility criteria.

The IDF Manager assesses and determines an outcome for applications against the specific eligibility criteria for the IDF support stream applied for, as outlined in the ISP Guidelines. If funded support is required, your Inclusion Agency will assist you to apply for the IDF support stream, to address the barriers to inclusion identified in your service.

## Applying for IDF funding

1. Contact your local Inclusion Agency to discuss your inclusion needs and develop a Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP).
2. If the SIP identifies your service needs funding support, you will need to complete an online application through the IS Portal.
3. To complete the IDF application process you will then need to:
  - ▶ Provide a signed Parent/Guardian Permission to Share Personal Information Form (if required)
  - ▶ Provide documentary evidence of the child's additional needs (if required)
  - ▶ Identify the barriers to inclusion at your service
  - ▶ Identify the strategies and actions educators will implement to support the inclusion of all children in the care environment.

*The Inclusion Support Programme is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training*

## Contact us for further information

### Inclusion Development Fund Manager

T 1800 824 955  
E [idfm@ku.com.au](mailto:idfm@ku.com.au)  
[www.idfm.org.au](http://www.idfm.org.au)

### Australian Government Department of Education and Training

[www.education.gov.au](http://www.education.gov.au)

### Inclusion Agencies

Each state/territory has an Inclusion Agency supporting early childhood and child care services. For details of the IA in your local area, please visit [www.idfm.org.au](http://www.idfm.org.au)

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## Inclusion Support Programme

# Inclusion Development Fund

## Information for services

*Supporting the inclusion of children with additional needs in early childhood and child care services*



*Artwork by James, KU Crusader Preschool*



## **Inclusion Support Programme**

The Australian Government funded Inclusion Support Programme (ISP) provides support directly to early childhood and child care (ECCC) services to help build their capacity and capability to provide quality inclusive care environments for children with additional needs.

The Inclusion Development Fund (IDF) provides funding to assist ECCC services to address barriers to inclusion that cannot be addressed by the support provided by their Inclusion Agency (IA).

### **Children with additional needs**

Children with additional needs may include:

- ▶ Children with a disability
- ▶ Children undergoing assessment for disability
- ▶ Children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- ▶ Children from a refugee or humanitarian background
- ▶ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

### **Eligible early childhood and child care services**

- ▶ CCB approved LDC, OSHC (including Vacation Care) and FDC services
- ▶ Occasional Care services
- ▶ Mobile services
- ▶ Budget Based Funded (BBF) Program services

## **Do we need additional support to include a child with additional needs?**

**Contact your local Inclusion Agency (IA) to discuss your inclusion needs.**

The IA assists:

- ▶ Educators to build their capacity and capability to provide and embed inclusive practice in their programmes
- ▶ Services to access further resources or funding if appropriate

### **Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP)**

A SIP is a self guided inclusion assessment and planning tool for services accessing the ISP. The SIP identifies strategies for improving and embedding inclusive practice. The SIP may identify the need for additional support through the 'Specialist Equipment Library' and /or the 'Inclusion Development Fund'.

### **Specialist Equipment Library (SEL)**

Each IA manages a SEL for services to loan items to support the inclusion of children.

### **Inclusion Development Fund (IDF)**

The IDF provides four different streams of funding to assist services to address barriers to inclusion that cannot be resolved by support provided by an Inclusion Agency. The IA will assist the service with identifying the most suitable funding stream.

## **IDF funding streams**

### **Additional Educator**

IDF Subsidy for an Additional Educator provides per hour funding to centre-based services. This subsidises the employment of an additional educator to increase the educator to child ratio in the care environment. The increased ratio assists educators to support the inclusion of children with disability with typically developing peers.

### **Immediate/Time-Limited Support**

The IDF Subsidy for Immediate/Time Limited Support enables centre based services to immediately engage an Additional Educator. This is for a limited period of time while alternative support options are considered.

### **Family Day Care (FDC) Top Up**

The IDF FDC Top Up provides a fee top up payment to an educator who is including a child with ongoing high support needs, where due to the child's significant additional support requirements, the educator is unable to enrol the maximum number of children allowed under the National Law.

### **Innovative Solutions Support**

Innovative Solutions Support funds flexible and alternative solutions to address inclusion barriers which are not funded under other IDF support streams and addressed through support provided by the Inclusion Agency. Inclusion Agencies can assist services to identify and apply for Innovative Solutions Support.