

Eligibility for the Inclusion and Professional Support Program

Services that can access assistance under the Inclusion and Professional Support Program are:

- Australian Government approved child care services, including private and community based long day care, outside school hours care (including vacation care); family day care; occasional care; and in-home care
- Australian Government funded non-mainstream child care services (non-Child Care Benefit), such as flexible/multifunctional services; multi-functional Aboriginal child care services; non-mainstream outside school hours care; non-formula funded occasional care (100 per cent Australian Government funded); and mobile children's services
- Inclusion Support Agencies, Inclusion Support Facilitators and Bicultural Support Workers.

How to find out more

To find out more and to discuss your inclusion and professional support needs, phone the state/territory toll-free help line or visit the state/territory web site.

For Indigenous child care services, contact a regional Indigenous Professional Support Unit, phone the state/territory toll-free help line, or visit the state/territory web site.

Professional Support Coordinators

NSW	1800 157 818	www.cscentral.org.au
VIC	1800 177 017	www.cccinc.org.au
QLD	1800 112 585	www.pscq.org.au
WA	1800 783 768	www.pscwa.org.au
SA	1800 129 606	www.pscsa.org.au
TAS	1800 675 416	www.cspsc.com.au
ACT	1800 228 772	www.actpsc.com.au
NT*	Current Providers: 08 8981 7555 08 8946 3836 08 8953 4488 08 8953 4059	

For more information about the Inclusion and Professional Support Program visit www.facsia.gov.au/internet.nsf/childcare/services-ipsp.htm.

* The Northern Territory Professional Support Coordinator will be operational from mid 2006.



Australian Government

Department of Families,
Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs



▶ The new child care Inclusion and Professional Support Program

- **Helps child care services and workers to build their knowledge and skills, by improving the quality of advice and training**
- **Helps child care services to include children with additional support needs**
- **Ensures that advice and training is easily accessible from any location**
- **Combines the Special Needs Subsidy Scheme and Disabled Supplementary Services payment into a single Inclusion Support Subsidy payment.**

The program is designed to take a linked up and consistent approach to inclusion and professional support for child care services and workers, and give them better access to the support they need to provide high quality care to all children.

About the Inclusion and Professional Support Program

The Inclusion and Professional Support Program is an important part of the Australian Government's Child Care Support Program. The program promotes and maintains high quality care and inclusion for all children in eligible child care services. The three main elements of the program are:

- 1 A Professional Support Coordinator in each state and territory will provide on-the-spot advice and manage the delivery of training resources and equipment to eligible child care services.
- 2 Sixty seven Inclusion Support Agencies, located across the country, will assist child care services to build on their knowledge and capacity to include children with additional needs.
- 3 From 1 July 2006 the Inclusion Support Subsidy will replace both the Special Needs Subsidy Scheme and the Disabled Supplementary Services Payment to help children with ongoing high support needs such as a diagnosed disability.

Delivery structure of the Inclusion and Professional Support Program



Inclusion support

- Inclusion Support Agencies employ and manage a network of specialist workers, known as Inclusion Support Facilitators, to work directly with eligible child care services.
- The facilitators help child care services to build their skills and capacity to include children with additional needs such as children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with a disability, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Professional support

- The Professional Support Coordinator in each state or territory will be the central contact for child care services that require advice, training, or resources. Assistance will be available to eligible child care services and other child care professionals, such as specialist inclusion workers.
- Professional Support Coordinators use local service providers to work with child care services directly, to provide training and professional development that meets the individual needs of child care services and workers.
- Indigenous Professional Support Units help Indigenous-run eligible child care services to get advice and training that meets their specific needs.

Inclusion Support Subsidy

- From July 2006 the new Inclusion Support Subsidy will replace the Special Needs Subsidy Scheme and the Disabled Supplementary Services Payment with one payment system.
- The payment is designed to help services improve their capacity to include children with ongoing high support needs, such as children with a disability or refugee children who have experienced torture or trauma.
- The subsidy provides funding towards the cost of extra staff, releasing staff for inclusion training or specialised equipment needed to include children in a quality child care environment.

