

The Inclusion Support Program

The Inclusion Support Program (ISP) is a key component of the Government's Child Care Safety Net and an early element of the Child Care Package, introduced in 2018. The aim of the Package is to give the most vulnerable children a strong start, while supporting parents or carers to increase their activity including work, study and training.

The ISP assists early childhood education and care (ECEC) services to include children with additional needs by providing tailored inclusion advice and support from the Inclusion Agency. The ISP also assists services to implement a quality, inclusive and equitable practice under the National Quality Framework (NQF) and in accordance with the National Quality Standards (NQS) and Approved Learning Frameworks.

Additional needs may arise for children who:

- ▶ Have a disability or developmental delay
- ▶ Are presenting with challenging behaviours
- ▶ Have a serious medical or health condition, including mental health
- ▶ Are presenting with trauma-related behaviours

The ISP supports ECEC services to meet the needs and requirements of:

- ▶ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- ▶ Children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- ▶ Children from refugee or humanitarian backgrounds
- ▶ Children who may also require specific considerations, such as cultural support, to ensure that they are able to participate fully in ECEC services and experience positive outcomes

Eligible ECEC services include:

- ▶ Long Day Care services
- ▶ Outside School Hours Care including Vacation Care
- ▶ Family Day Care services
- ▶ Occasional Care services
- ▶ Mobile services
- ▶ Community Child Care Fund Restricted (CCCF)

Inclusion Support QLD is funded by the Australian Government to provide Inclusion Agency support and is managed by KU Children's Services, in partnership with Cairns and District Child Care Development Association.

Contact us for further information

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Inclusion Support QLD

Providing Inclusion Agency support to Queensland early childhood and childcare services





Inclusion Agency support

The QLD Inclusion Agency is Inclusion Support QLD (ISQ), which is managed by KU Children's Services in partnership with Cairns and District Child Care Development Association.

ISQ has a network of inclusion professionals who provide tailored support to eligible Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services, to create solutions that address barriers to inclusion. This may include access to specialist equipment to facilitate participation, and funding to support more challenging inclusion barriers. Our team of inclusion professionals are based at inclusion hubs located across regional and metro areas of Queensland:

Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Hervey Bay, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Logan/Redlands, Toowoomba and Gold Coast.

How to contact us

To find your local Inclusion Hub contact us:

Toll free on **1800 811 039**
inclusionsupportqld@ku.com.au

For more information go to:
www.inclusionsupportqld.org.au

Inclusion means:

- ▶ All children's experiences are recognised and valued*
- ▶ All children have equitable access to resources and participation, and opportunities to demonstrate their learning and to value difference*
- ▶ Collaboration and partnerships are prioritised, and all educators are responsible for identifying inclusion barriers and learning about ways to overcome them
- ▶ All children's social, cultural and linguistic diversity are taken into account in curriculum decision-making processes*
- ▶ The focus for inclusion is on the whole environment and not an individual child
- ▶ Diversity is acknowledged and is viewed as a resource for learning, growth, and change
- ▶ We are changing what we do, so that all children can participate

* Department of Education and Training (2019). Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia. Canberra, ACT: DET. www.education.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework-0

How will we support your service?

Inclusion Professionals work directly with services to develop a Strategic Inclusion Plan to:

- ▶ Support educators to acknowledge and identify their strengths
- ▶ Support educators to reflect on their understanding of inclusion and identify inclusion barriers
- ▶ Assist educators and teams to critically reflect on their practices and identify possibilities for change
- ▶ Provide practical advice on quality inclusive practice to support educators to overcome specific inclusion barriers
- ▶ Facilitate access to all Inclusion Support Program (ISP) resources, including Specialist Equipment Library loans, to support children to access and participate in every aspect of the service program
- ▶ Encourage educators to link with relevant community groups, services and organisations
- ▶ Support educators to work in partnership with families and other support networks
- ▶ Support educators to promote an understanding of inclusion principles with families and other professionals