

# The Inclusion Support Program

The Inclusion Support Program (ISP) is a key component of the Government's Child Care Safety Net, which commenced in July 2016, as an early element of the Child Care Package. Introduced in 2018, this aims 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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[www.inclusionsupportqld.org.au](http://www.inclusionsupportqld.org.au)

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## Inclusion Support Program

# Specialist Equipment Library

## Information for families

*Providing specialist equipment support to Queensland early childhood and child care services*





## Specialist Equipment Library loans

The Specialist Equipment Library (SEL) can loan your child care service a range of equipment free of charge to assist children with additional needs to actively participate in your centre's program alongside their typically developing peers

Inclusion Professionals will support your child care service to work in collaboration with your family and your therapist/s to identify what specialist equipment is best suited to your child's needs to help them participate.

Equipment under the Inclusion Support Program is used to support your child to participate in the centre's program and not for therapy purposes.

Equipment is loaned to your child care service and needs to remain in the service at all times. The equipment is returned to the SEL when it is no longer required by the service.

## Types of equipment available

Equipment available from the SEL may include (but is not limited to):

- ▶ Portable ramps to create access to the environment
- ▶ Standing frames and full support swings to allow a child with high physical needs to participate in the daily programme and activities
- ▶ Hoists, slings, harnesses, change tables, toilet sets or steps, potty chairs, mobile stools and seating or posture aids for educators to assist them to lift and transfer children safely when carrying out basic care functions such as changing or going to the toilet
- ▶ Specialised inclusion toys such as switch toys
- ▶ Specialised furniture such as chairs, tables, desks and positioning equipment
- ▶ Communication cards or charts, and Auslan dictionaries to enable the child and educators to communicate effectively
- ▶ Resources to support the inclusion of Indigenous children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, such as books in languages other than English

Additional information, including non-approved equipment, can be accessed from [www.idfm.org.au/additional-educator/resources/june-2016/isp-guidelines](http://www.idfm.org.au/additional-educator/resources/june-2016/isp-guidelines) and [www.inclusionsupportqld.org.au/specialist-equipment-library](http://www.inclusionsupportqld.org.au/specialist-equipment-library)

## How you can assist your child care service to access equipment

- ▶ You will be asked by your child care service to complete a Parental Consent Form and sign the Specialist Equipment Library Item Request Form
- ▶ Your service may ask you to provide contact details of therapists/specialists (such as Occupational Therapists or Physiotherapists) working with your child and who have knowledge of your child's biomechanical functioning and needs.

The human rights, best interests of and outcomes for all children participating in ECEC setting are supported when families, early childhood intervention (ECI) practitioners, and early childhood education and care (ECEC) educators work together. (*The Working Together Agreement, Early Childhood Intervention Australia*)