

NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency



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Inclusion Support Program 2016-2021

The Inclusion Support Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment



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Inclusion Support Program

- The Inclusion Support Program (ISP) is a key component of the Australian Government's Child Care Safety Net – which 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 program provides free support for eligible mainstream Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services to build their capacity and capability to include children with additional needs, alongside their typically developing peers.

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How can the Inclusion Agency support your service?

- Assist educators and teams to critically reflect on their practices and identify possibilities for change
- Facilitate access to all Inclusion Support Program resources including Inclusion Development Funding and Specialist Equipment
- Link with relevant community groups, services and organisations
- Work in partnership with families and other support networks
- Support educators to develop a tailored Strategic Inclusion Plan

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Strategic Inclusion Plan

All services receiving support through the program must commit to developing and implementing a Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP).

- A self-guided inclusion assessment and planning tool
- Recognises the current inclusive capacity of a service
- Includes short and longer term strategies for improving and embedding inclusive practice
- Recognises the barriers that impact the service's capacity to include children with additional needs
- Identifies strategies to address barriers to inclusion

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Funding supports available through the Inclusion Development Fund Manager

There are 4 streams of funded support for inclusion:

- IDF Subsidy for an Additional Educator
- IDF Subsidy for Immediate/Time Limited Support
- IDF FDC Top Up
- Innovative Solutions Support

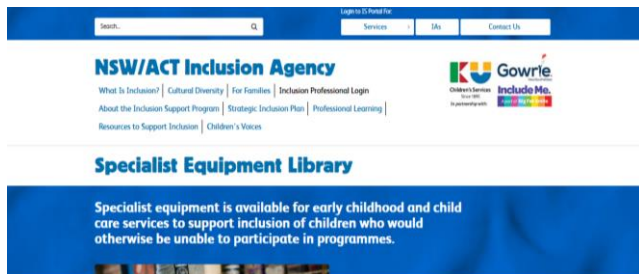
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Other Inclusion Support Program supports and resources



The screenshot shows the NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency website. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for 'Services', 'Info', and 'Contact Us'. Below the agency name, there are links for 'What is Inclusion?', 'Cultural Diversity', 'For Families', and 'Inclusion Professional Login'. The main heading is 'Specialist Equipment Library'. Below this, a blue box contains the text: 'Specialist equipment is available for early childhood and child care services to support inclusion of children who would otherwise be unable to participate in programmes.'



The Specialist Equipment Library (SEL) provides resources to enable early childhood and child care services (ECCO) services to improve their capacity and capability to provide quality inclusive practices, and address participation barriers to children with additional needs can be included alongside their typically developing peers.

Types of Equipment

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

- Reusable ramps to create access to the environment
- Standing frames and full support beings to allow a child with high physical needs to participate in the daily programme and activities
- Mats, rings, bumpers, change tables, cover seats 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
- Specialised inclusion toys such as sensory toys
- Specialised furniture such as chairs, tables and desks
- Communication cards or charts, and Auslan dictionaries to enable the child and educators to communicate effectively.



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Cultures and histories of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people should be embedded into your everyday practice and children's learning experiences. It's about exploring Aboriginal culture and learning about ways of belonging, being and becoming. Educators' practice should be reflective and inclusive so that children are not disadvantaged by an educator's bias or views. (ACECQA, National Quality Standard - Information Sheet, Quality Area 1 - Be part of Reconciliation)

A little about our Hub...

The NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Inclusion Hub is managed by Wirodjuri woman and qualified early childhood educator Michelle Hamilton. Her role is to directly mentor, support and guide all NSW/ACT Inclusion Professionals as they support you as educators to embed Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander cultures into your programs.

This Webpage is designed to help enhance your understanding of Aboriginal history, cultural inclusive practices and provide you with access to a range of valuable resources to support inclusive practice.

Ready to access support?

To access inclusion support, educators with the assistance of an Inclusion Professional, must be committed to both developing and implementing a Strategic Inclusion Plan. [Click here](#) to find out more about Strategic Inclusion Plans.

[Click here](#) to contact the NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency or feel free to contact your Inclusion Professional directly



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Useful Websites

- Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment Inclusion Support Program:
<https://www.education.gov.au/inclusion-support-program-ips>
- NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency:
<https://www.inclusionagency NSWACT.org.au>
- Inclusion Development Fund Manager:
www.idfm.org.au
- Updated Guidelines for the Inclusion Support Program:
<https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/inclusion-support-program-guidelines>



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