



## Phone Link Ups

## Inclusion Support Subsidy for Family Day Care and In-home Care

### The Inclusion Support Program

The **Inclusion Support Program** is a Federal Government program that assists child care services to include children with additional needs in a quality child care environment. This support is available to Australian Government Approved Child Care Services, including **Family Day Care (FDC)** and **In-Home Care (IHC)**.

### Inclusion Support Agencies

Assistance is provided through regionally based **Inclusion Support Agencies (ISAs)** and a team of Inclusion Support Facilitators (ISFs) who work directly with child care services. This assistance replaces support previously provided through the SUPS Program and SUPS workers.



In NSW there are 18 ISAs. Nine are located in the Sydney metropolitan area and nine in rural NSW. To find out about the ISA in your region contact **Children's Services Central** on **1800 157 818** or visit their website at [www.cscentral.org.au](http://www.cscentral.org.au).

The FDC scheme or IHC service provider is aligned to the ISA region in which they are located. In some instances FDC/IHC services may be located in one ISA region and carers in another. In these situations, while inclusion support remains the responsibility of the ISA region in which the FDC scheme or IHC service provider is located, the ISA closest to the carer may be asked to provide local inclusion support. This is negotiated between the relevant ISAs.

### Inclusion Support Subsidy

The **Inclusion Support Subsidy (ISS)** is one of the funded supports available to help child care services include children with ongoing high support needs into quality child care. The ISS replaced the Special Needs Subsidy Scheme (SNSS) and DSUPS from 1 July 2006.

ISS funding is a contribution towards the costs of providing additional support to include one or more children with ongoing high support needs. ISS may be approved for FDC and IHC carers for the following purposes:

-  to engage relief staff while carers attend training or professional support that specifically relates to the inclusion of a child or children with ongoing high support needs;
-  to engage an extra staff member to accompany a FDC or IHC carer on out-of-home excursions;

- as a payment to FDC or IHC carers, in recognition of the additional care and attention required by a child or children with ongoing high support needs in their care and the impact this has on the carer.

For FDC, the ISS may also be used to fund the purchase of specialist equipment that has been identified as essential to include a child with ongoing high support needs (NB: IHC is not eligible for specialist equipment).

Eligibility of a child or children for ISS does not mean an automatic entitlement to ISS support. The need for ISS is determined through the process of developing a Service Support Plan (SSP) that assists the service/carer to identify how a child with additional needs (including those high and ongoing support needs) will be supported and which resources and supports will help. An ISF will assist the FDC scheme or IHC service provider, and the carer to complete the SSP.

Where a SSP has identified that additional support (through the ISS) is required, an Inclusion Support Subsidy Application Form should be completed, along with the SSP and forwarded to the ISS Provider.

### Level of Assistance Provided Through ISS

FDC carers may be approved for up to:

- \$15.04 per hour for a relief carer while carers attend training for each eligible child up to a maximum of 15 hours per approved child;
- \$15.04 per hour for an extra staff member for out of home excursions for each eligible child up to a maximum of 5 hours per week for 52 weeks per year;
- a capacity payment of either \$4.00 (Tier 1) or \$8.00 (Tier 2) per hour per care environment up to a maximum of 50 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.

FDC carers caring for one or more ISS eligible children may be eligible for the \$4.00 per hour capacity payment where it is determined that the impact for caring for that child (or those children) has a mild impact on the care environment. The Tier 1 capacity payment may also apply when a carer has an ISS eligible child/children attending and has enrolled the full complement of children (according to state and territory regulations).

FDC carers may be eligible for the \$8.00 per hour capacity payment where it is determined that an ISS eligible child/ren have a significant impact on the carer's capacity to care for the full complement of children, i.e. the carer is unable to care for that child without reducing their complement by at least one child.

IHC carers may be approved for up to:

- \$15.04 per hour for a relief carer while carers attend training for each eligible child up to a maximum of 15 hours per approved child;
- \$15.04 per hour for an extra staff member for out of home excursions for each eligible child up to a maximum of 5 hours per week for 52 weeks per year;
- an additional payment of either \$4.00 or \$8.00 per hour per care environment, up to a maximum of 50 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.

IHC carers may be eligible for the \$4.00 per hour extra payment if the ISS eligible child is considered to have a mild impact on the carer, or the \$8.00 per hour extra payment if the ISS eligible child has a significant impact on the carer.

## Other Funded Supports

The ISS is one of a range of support options available. FDC schemes, IHC service providers and carers may also be able to access additional support through Flexible Support and Bicultural Support funding.

**Flexible Support Funding (FSF)** is support provided to child care services to help them build their capacity to include a child with additional needs by employing additional staff to increase the staff to child ratio for a time limited period. For FDC and IHC, Flexible Support Funding (FSF) can be used to employ an additional worker to enable a child with high ongoing support needs to participate in out-of-home activities.

**Bicultural Support** is time limited specialist support provided to assist child care services to include children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD), refugee children or Indigenous children. This support may include onsite or telephone assistance at the time of enrolment.

The process of developing a SSP will help the FDC scheme or the IHC service provider and the carer to determine if FSF or bicultural support is required and how it will assist the service/carer to include a child or children with additional needs.

## References and Further Information

This discussion paper has been developed using information contained in *ISS Guidelines (version 11, 26 February 2007)*. The ISS Guidelines and additional information about the Inclusion Support Program can be sourced from the FaCSIA website at [www.facsia.gov.au](http://www.facsia.gov.au).

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