



Immediate Time-Limited Support

Inclusion Support Program

This information sheet is to assist early childhood education and care (ECEC) services in applying for the Inclusion Development Fund (IDF) Subsidy for Immediate/Time-Limited Support stream and should be read in conjunction with Section 6 of the Inclusion Support Program (ISP) Guidelines.

What is the purpose of Immediate/Time-Limited Support?

The IDF Subsidy for Immediate/Time-Limited Support provides funding to subsidise the employment of an additional educator to address an **immediate** barrier to the inclusion of a child with high support needs within a care environment. This support is **time-limited** and aims to support services to include a child while alternative and stable solutions are determined to support the child's ongoing inclusion with their typically developing peers.

A service can apply for this support once for the same child, for up to a 12-week period and for a maximum of 150 hours. Weekly hourly limits apply depending on service type (see Section 6.4 of the ISP Guidelines).

With an increased educator to child ratio in the care environment, educators can implement strategies to help address the identified barriers to inclusion. This can include educators trialling and implementing changes within the care environment, such as adjustments to educator practices, program, routines and resources. Note: the additional educator does not provide one-to-one support for a child who has additional needs, but rather works as a member of the team to support the participation of all children in the care environment.

What are the eligibility and application requirements?

Eligible Centre-Based Day Care and Outside School Hours Care services are required to complete and submit a short project outline in the Inclusion Support (IS) Portal. The project outline should demonstrate the following eligibility requirements as met:

- the child has additional and high support needs
- there is an immediate barrier to the child's inclusion in the care environment with typically developing peers

- an additional educator for a time-limited period is the most appropriate solution to the presenting barrier/s and strategies to be implemented
- longer-term and alternate solutions will need to be determined to support the child's ongoing inclusion.

A parent/guardian consent form must be completed.

Documentary evidence of the child's circumstances is not required for Immediate/Time-Limited Support, but the application for funding will be reviewed by the Inclusion Agency prior to assessment by the IDF Manager (IDFM).

As the intention of this funding stream is to be highly responsive, the service may complete the inclusion planning for the care environment via the Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP) once an Immediate/Time-Limited application has been assessed and approved. The service must commence the SIP to allow the care environment to be selected in the application.

What should be considered prior to applying for this support?

- Services should consider and address the questions (below) in the project outline section of the IS case. Educators may also seek advice and collaborate with the family and other professionals, where appropriate, as well as engage in professional learning to support the child's inclusion.
- What are the barriers to the child participating in the program and interacting with their peers?
- Is an increased educator-to-child ratio the most appropriate solution to the barriers identified? How will this support educators to include the child?
 - What will educators do differently?
 - What changes to routines and the program may be possible?
 - What specific strategies will educators implement?
 - How will educators work as a team?
- Is there any IDF Subsidy support already approved for the care environment? Consider if additional support is needed and where appropriate, determine the hours/days where this support is needed.

Can IDF Innovative Solutions Support be accessed at the same time?

Yes. To complement the support available through this stream, services can also apply for IDF Innovative Solutions Support at the same time, or at any time after an Immediate/Time-Limited Support approval is given. IDF Innovative Solutions Support is available to implement innovative and flexible solutions to address a barrier to inclusion, which cannot be addressed by the support provided by an Inclusion Agency, or through other IDF streams. For more information, see Section 9 of the ISP Guidelines.



Can this support be used to assist a child to transition to a new care environment?

Yes, a service can apply for Immediate/Time-Limited Support to assist educators to settle a child with high support needs in a new care environment if the service has not previously applied for this support for the same child.

Can this funding be used to provide support due to temporary barriers to inclusion?

No, the support is intended to assist educators to address immediate barriers to inclusion, while they determine the longer-term and alternate strategies required to support the child's ongoing inclusion. It is not intended to address circumstances that result in temporary barriers to inclusion, such as short-term or one-off increases in children's attendance, or child injury (e.g. a broken leg), illness or related treatments (e.g. recovery from surgery).

Can a service apply if the child's regular attendance varies on a fortnightly or four weekly basis?

Yes. This flexibility recognises that some children may have a regular variable attendance pattern over a typical 4-week period due to parent's work or study commitments, or other circumstances.

Can a service apply for Immediate/Time-Limited Support while waiting to receive documentary evidence or an approval for the IDF Subsidy for an Additional Educator?

No. Immediate/Time-Limited Support is **not** intended to 'fill a gap' between when the service applies for longer-term IDF Subsidy for an Additional Educator and when an approval for this IDF stream may be given.

If services think longer term support will be required beyond 12 weeks then they should apply for IDF Subsidy for an Additional Educator in the first instance.

In some circumstances a service may require ongoing support after the Immediate/Time-Limited Support period, for example, where a child's circumstance are more complex than initially assessed. In such instances a service may apply for IDF Subsidy for an Additional Educator and these will be considered on a case by case basis by the IDFM.



Is Immediate/Time-Limited support available for children in Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)?

Yes, OSHC services can apply for Immediate/Time-Limited support for children with additional needs, including children without a diagnosed disability or awaiting a disability diagnosis.

Before School Care and After School Care services can apply for up to 25 hours per week for a maximum of 150 hours for up to 12 weeks, across both service types if commencing attendance and applying at the same time. Where attendance at either service type commences at a later date and barriers to inclusion are identified in relation to attendance at the before or after school care service, the service can apply for Immediate/Time-Limited Support up to the standard limits.

Can Vacation Care services apply for this support?

Yes, Vacation Care services are eligible to apply for this support. Services can apply for a maximum of 12 weeks and a maximum of 40 hours per week up to a total of 150 hours. Vacation care services can be approved over a 12-month approval period.

This recognises the limited operational weeks of the service type, and common variation in children's attendance patterns over different school holiday periods.

Further information

Services are encouraged to contact their Inclusion Agency in the first instance to discuss support available through the ISP. More information is available in the ISP Guidelines or on the IDFM website.

