

Information for Providers about Innovative Solutions Support

The IDF Innovative Solutions Support assists eligible early childhood and child care (ECCC) services to fund innovative and flexible solutions to overcome barriers to inclusion, which cannot be addressed by other support offered through the Inclusion Support Programme or funded through other sources.

What can the Innovative Solutions support be used for?

Innovative Solutions funding can be used to support services to include children with additional needs and build the capacity and capability of educators to embed inclusive practices within the ECCC service. Projects may include, but are not limited to:

- provision of bicultural support, including bicultural/bilingual workers and consultations,
- purchase of translating and interpreting services,
- facilitating meaningful connections and relationships with the local community, and
- specialist advice and support to assist educators to include a particular child or children.

Children with additional needs usually refers to:

- Children presenting with disruptive behaviour
- Children with disability including those undergoing assessments for disability
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- Children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds
- Children from a refugee or humanitarian background
- Children with serious medical condition/s
- Children presenting with language and speech delays

How much funding can a service apply for?

The allowed range of a single application is \$300-\$3000. Applications over \$3000 will be referred to the Department of Education and Training for consideration.

How does the ECCC service apply?

This funding stream aims to empower services to consider their inclusion challenges and take an active role in developing and implementing innovative solutions to address barriers to inclusion. This includes an application process where services take the lead:

- to identify their barriers to inclusion,
- develop a project to address the barriers and
- source a provider to assist the service in implementing the project.

The service then submits an application to the Inclusion Development Fund Manager (IDFM), including a business case and a quote from one or more providers.

What information does the provider need to give to the ECCC service?

Services are responsible for sourcing appropriate providers and quotes to support the business case for their Innovative Solutions Support project. The service needs to discuss the Innovative Solutions Support project with the potential providers and the provider must decide if they are able to deliver what the service requires to implement the project and the intended outcomes. The provider can then provide a quote based on their discussions with the service.

The Inclusion Support Programme is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training – August 2017

All financial quotes should be provided on the provider's letterhead and include the following:

- The provider's registered business name
- The provider's ABN number (there can be limited exceptions to this requirement for providers who do not have an ABN).
- Date of quote
- An itemised list which outlines the cost for each aspect of the support being provided, including hourly rate/s.
- Project duration, including number of hours, number of weeks and hours per week.
- The quote must be GST inclusive and display the value of the GST component.

What should the ECCC service consider when selecting a preferred provider?

- What is the organisation's experience with providing the type of support you are requesting? Do they have the skills and knowledge you require?
- Will the support enable the service to achieve the intended outcomes of the project?
- Are all costs outlined in the quote necessary? Can any costs be reduced?
- The service is also required to outline in their Innovative Solutions Support applications the reason/s for selecting a provider relating to availability, cost, value for money and quality of the support being offered.

When does the service find out the outcome of their application?

Once the application is submitted, it takes between 5 and 15 business days for the service to know the outcome of their application. If the project is approved, the service receives a Letter of Offer. Once the Letter of Offer is signed and returned to the IDFM, the service will typically receive full payment within 4-6 business days to their nominated account via electronic transfer.

What happens at the end of the project?

At the completion of the project services are required to complete an online declaration advising if the funding was partially or fully expended and whether the project was delivered and outcomes of the project achieved.

It is expected that services will be able to use the skills and knowledge gained through the implementation of the project to continue to include children with additional needs with their peers at the service, now and into the future.