

## What is a Business Case?

To apply for Innovative Solutions Support a service provides information about the project they have developed to help them to address a barrier to inclusion. The Business Case is completed, as part of the online application through the IS Portal, by entering the details of the project into the text box in the Business Case Tile.

The information provided in the business case is critical to determine whether the application can be approved under the ISP Guidelines. This information should be supported by the service's inclusion planning in their Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP).

## What to consider when deciding to apply for Innovative Solutions:

- What is the Barrier/s to inclusion?
- Will the solution lead to genuine inclusion of children in the service?
- Does the Barrier and solution relate to eligible cohorts (groups) of children supported under the ISP, as listed in Section F1.1 of the ISP Guidelines?
- Does the solution address the Barrier to inclusion?
- Is the resources/funding required to deliver the project available elsewhere?
- Is the solution for a non-approved purpose of this funding stream?

On reflection, if the solution meets the above criteria, the service may apply for Innovative Solutions support outlining details of their proposed project in their Business case.

## What should be written in a Business Case?

*Provide details of the project. This should outline the barrier/s to inclusion, description of the project to address the barrier/s and details of the intended outcomes.*

### 1. Identifying Barrier/s- What is the barrier/s to inclusion?

The service identifies the barrier/s to inclusion in relation to the cohorts (groups) of children that the project will assist. This may be a combination of barriers relating to the child, educators and/or care environment.



## 2. Outlining the project that will address the Barriers identified –

*What do you want to do? How long will it take? Who can help you?*

The service must outline how the project will specifically address the barrier/s to inclusion. This includes an overview of the project, who will be implementing it, how and when will it be implemented. This should include estimated timeframes, including the number of hours per day and weeks the project will take. It should also include what steps the service took to:

- find out if this support is already available, and
- find suitable providers in their area, where needed.

If there are particular reasons that the service has selected the provider, these should be included in the business case; for example, they are the only provider in the region, follow up support is offered, their level of skills and knowledge, the amount of support offered etc.

## 3. Outlining the proposed outcomes – *What do you expect to see?*

The service outlines the expected outcomes of the project. What would specifically change or improve as a result of implementing the project? This would include details demonstrating how the project would:

- result in the genuine inclusion of a child/children, and
- build the inclusion capacity and capability of educators.

## Innovative Solutions Support – Business Case Template

This is a planning tool designed to assist services to develop their Business Case, which is a key part of the Innovative Solutions Support application. Please refer to all the information in **Fact Sheet 3 - What is a Business Case** to ensure that all requirements are addressed.

*This template cannot be submitted as a part of the application, however the information in each text box can be copied into the Business Case section of the application.*

1. **Identify the barrier/s to inclusion in relation to the cohorts (groups) of children that the project will assist?** *Why is funding needed to address this?*  
(Approx. 150 words)

2. **Provide an overview of the project-** outline how the project will address the barriers identified – *What do you want to do? How long will it take? How did the service explore if support is already available? How did the service identify a suitable provider to assist?*  
(Approx. 300 words)

3. **Outline the proposed outcomes of the project.** *What would specifically change or improve as a result of implementing this project? What skills will the educators gain that will help them to sustain outcomes once the project is finished?*  
(Approx. 200 words)