



# Inclusion Support Program

The Australian Government will invest a further \$54.8 million in the Inclusion Support Program to help meet expected demand for services to support children with additional needs.

This brings additional funding for the 2026-27 year to \$114 million.

## How will it work?

The Australian Government is committed to improving early childhood education and care so that all children and families can access high quality services. A key component of this commitment is the Inclusion Support Program.

While all early childhood education and care providers are required to provide inclusive services, some services need extra support.

The Inclusion Support Program (ISP) is a \$133 million per year program that helps eligible ECEC services build their capacity and capability to include children with additional needs, improving access for all children.

Through components such as the Additional Educator Subsidy, the ISP reduces barriers to participation and supported around 26,000 children in 2024–25.

To meet expected demand in 2026-27, an additional \$59.2 million was provided at the 2025-26 MYEFO with a further \$54.8 million now allocated in Budget 2026–27.

This measure is in addition to the \$2 billion over five years the Commonwealth has committed to support the establishment of Thriving Kids, which will support children where they live, learn and play.

## Why is this important and who will benefit?

Inclusion in early childhood education and care means that every child can access a service, participate meaningfully and experience positive outcomes regardless of their needs or circumstances.

## How much will it cost?

The Australian Government will invest a further \$54.8 million in the Inclusion Support Program in 2026-27.