



Funding for the Inclusion Support Program

The Australian Government will invest a further \$98.4 million in the Inclusion Support Program to help meet expected demand for services to support children with additional needs.

How will this initiative work?

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

The Inclusion Support Program helps services to implement inclusive practices that better support Australian children with additional needs and their families. One way it does this is by assisting services engage additional educators, where there is a need for extra support to address barriers to inclusion.

Demand for the Inclusion Support Program has grown significantly over the last four years, with more than 19,000 children and about 5,600 services supported in 2022-23.

This funding will ensure the Inclusion Support Program can continue to support services to include children with additional needs.

Why is this important?

Inclusion in early childhood education and care means that every child can access a service, participate meaningfully and experience positive outcomes.

Inclusion is a human right.

The additional funding will ensure that services can continue to access the Inclusion Support Program and families with children with additional needs can continue to be supported.

The Productivity Commission is currently undertaking a comprehensive review into early childhood education and care. Access and inclusion are important considerations for this review.

The Productivity Commission's draft report can be accessed at www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/childhood, and a final report is due to Government mid-year.

Who will benefit?

Additional funding for the Inclusion Support Program will help services meet their obligation to provide children with additional needs with quality early childhood education and care.

How much will it cost?

The Australian Government will invest a further \$98.4 million in the Inclusion Support Program in 2024-25, in addition to the existing \$133 million annual appropriation.