



Family Day Care Top Up

Inclusion Support Program

This Information Sheet is to assist services in applying for the Inclusion Development Fund (IDF) Family Day Care (FDC) Top Up stream and should be read in conjunction with Section 8 of the [Inclusion Support Program \(ISP\) Guidelines](#). FDC services are also encouraged to consider IDF [Innovative Solutions Support](#) for flexible and responsive solutions to inclusion barriers.

What are the requirements for an IDF FDC Top Up application?

When assessing IDF FDC Top Up applications, the Inclusion Development Fund Manager (IDFM) considers the following requirements:

- the child's additional and ongoing high support needs
- the impact on the educator when including the child with ongoing high support needs
- evidence within the Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP) that details the barriers to inclusion and demonstrates the FDC educator is unable to enrol the maximum number of children allowed under the National Law due to the inclusion of the child with ongoing high support needs
- the number, ages and needs of other children in the care environment
- the education and care required during the child's times of attendance.

Will I be eligible for IDF FDC Top Up if I have less than the maximum number of children enrolled due to the enrolment of a child with ongoing high support needs?

To be eligible for the IDF FDC Top Up a service must clearly demonstrate that the need to continue to limit enrolments is solely due to the impact of including the child with ongoing high support needs. A FDC service may have less than the maximum number of children allowed under the National Law due to a variety of reasons such as low demand for places, variance in attendance patterns of children, the requirements of families and/or educator choice.

What is the current rate for the IDF FDC Top Up?

The current IDF FDC Subsidy rate is \$12.72/hour (2023-24) (limited to one payment per educator).

How is the impact on the FDC educator assessed?

FDC educators may be eligible for the IDF FDC Top Up if the additional support from the educator is determined to be *significant*, resulting in the educator being unable to enrol the maximum number of children as allowed under the National Law, when caring for a child with additional needs.

Table 1: Level of additional support provided by the FDC educator and what this may look like across developmental areas.

Developmental area	Moderate Additional Support required – No subsidy	Significant Additional Support required – FDC Top Up Subsidy
Communication	The educator is required to provide moderate assistance to develop the child’s communication skills, to enable the child to participate in group experiences and to develop the child’s independence.	The educator is required to provide the child with significant support to enable the child to interact with others. The educator consistently implements a combination of communication methods to assist the child to communicate their needs and interests and to support the child’s communication with others.
Social	The educator is required to provide moderate assistance with the development of the child’s social skills. Educator assistance may be required to initiate and/or sustain interactions with peers.	The educator is required to provide the child with significant support to facilitate the child’s social interaction with peers. This includes actively assisting or prompting the child’s interactions with others. The educator needs to use strategies to raise the child’s awareness of their peers or provide significant support to assist the child to engage in play with peers.
Health and Personal Care	The educator is required to provide moderate assistance to follow up the child’s self-help routines. This may include providing a moderate level of assistance to enable the child to eat, drink, toilet and dress.	The educator is required to provide the child with significant support for complex needs. This includes providing a high or total degree of assistance to ensure the child’s nutritional, hygiene and dress are met.
Physical	The educator is required to provide moderate assistance with child’s fine/gross motor skills. This includes providing some support and monitoring of the child’s mobility.	The educator is required to provide significant assistance with the child’s fine/gross motor skills. This includes constant physical support and monitoring of the child’s positioning and mobility.



Developmental area	Moderate Additional Support required – No subsidy	Significant Additional Support required – FDC Top Up Subsidy
Behavioural	The educator is required to provide moderate assistance for the management and monitoring of the child’s behaviour.	The educator is required to provide the child with significant support for the management of challenging or extreme behaviours.

