

Support Services

What support services are available to children with cerebral palsy who wish to attend their local childcare centre, preschool or family day care?

Some children with additional needs may require extra resources to maximise their inclusion in the childcare setting. For those children assistance is available through:

Inclusion and Professional Support Program (IPSP)

The Inclusion and Professional Support Program is the Federal Government program that supplies children's services with practical advice and support in including children with additional needs into a quality child care environment.

18 Inclusion Support Agencies (ISAs) are funded in NSW to work directly with children's services to provide practical advice and facilitate access to a range of supports designed to build services' capacity to create a quality care environment inclusive of all children.

Inclusion Support Subsidy (ISS)

This Subsidy helps build the capacity of Federally funded child care centres to successfully include children with ongoing high support needs. The subsidy can provide funding towards the cost of additional staff and specialised equipment.

Bicultural Support Pool Formerly known as the Casual Ethnic Workers Pool (CEWP), the Bicultural Support Pool is a special group of Bicultural Support Workers that assist children's services to work successfully with an Indigenous child or a child from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background.

These workers are available to assist in the initial settling-in period of children, introduce the child's culture to the service, and provide initial language assistance to children, parents and staff, in order to help families and the service communicate.

The service is free of charge for eligible children's services.

For further information regarding the IPSP, ISS and Bicultural Support Pool visit the Children's Services Central website on <http://www.cscentral.org.au/inclusion>

Intervention Support Program (ISP) provides supplementary support towards the cost of delivery of educational services for children with disabilities. This program supports learning and educational development opportunities for children with disabilities who are below school age and are attending non-profit early childhood settings which prepare them for or support their inclusion into regular preschools and schools. This funding is available through the Department of Education and Training (02) 9266 8222. Guidelines and application forms can be found at www.det.nsw.edu.au/eas/isp/

SCAN - The Supporting Children with Additional Needs program provides funding to eligible NSW services to help children with additional needs access a quality early childhood or vacation care experience. For further information visit <http://www.northernsydneyscan.org.au> or http://www.sdn.org.au/do/targeted_support/scan.html

The Spastic Centre team work with childcare centres, preschools, family day care and occasional care centres to support the inclusion of children with additional needs. This may include consultation and/or visits to the child care setting.