



Australian Government
**Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations**



KEY CHANGES TO THE INCLUSION AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM FROM 1 JANUARY 2013

December 2011

KEY CHANGES TO THE IPSP FROM 1 JANUARY 2013

1. Clearer roles and responsibilities for providers of IPSP activities

The new Guidelines provide a stronger focus and greater clarity around the roles and responsibilities of each IPSP provider.

Changes for ISAs

- Removal of requirement to contact every child care service in their region, but inclusion of the requirement to respond to all requests for support from child care services in their region.
- Inclusion Support Agency to ensure Inclusion Support Facilitators have the skills and experience required to provide support to an increasingly qualified ECEC workforce.
- Inclusion Support Facilitators to undertake nationally consistent orientation training.
- Clearer articulation on the type of support Inclusion Support Agencies will provide to early childhood education and care (ECEC) services applying for the Inclusion Support Subsidy.
- Clearer articulation on the type of support Inclusion Support Agencies will provide to ECEC services wishing to access Bicultural Support and or Specialist Equipment.

Changes for PSCs

- Greater focus of effort on the delivery and development of nationally consistent professional development, materials and resources related to assisting eligible ECEC services to understand and meet the requirements of the National Quality Standard, and to implement approved learning frameworks.
- Removal of requirement to subcontract the delivery of at least 55% of professional development to a third party provider. PSCs will still be able to subcontract where this is the best option to deliver professional development, but will be able to choose to deliver services directly if this is more effective and efficient.
- The content of professional development will be guided by DEEWR in collaboration with ACECQA and State and Territory Regulatory Authorities.
- Research activities removed as, from 1 January 2012, research will be a responsibility of the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA).

Changes for IPSUs

- IPSUs to ensure staff have the skills and experience required to provide appropriate support and advice to Indigenous focused Budget Base Funded (BBF) services.
- Clarity around IPSUs being able to provide cultural advice and support to eligible mainstream child care services when requested, and charging the PSC or ISA on a fee for service basis.

2. Greater national consistency and stronger strategic planning

DEEWR will have a stronger role in strategic planning to ensure greater consistency in the provision of IPSP activities. This will include collaboration with ACECQA and the Regulatory Authorities in determining priorities for PSCs.

DEEWR will undertake surveys of ECEC services to obtain feedback on the IPSP support provided and, over time, to develop evidence of the outcomes of the program, and to also identify areas where further IPSP support is required.

IPSP providers will be required to develop a plan for their activities for the period of their funding agreements and to review these plans on a twice yearly basis as part of their reporting requirements. This will ensure their plans and activities are addressing current priority areas and areas of identified need.

3. Introduction of a logo for the program and approval of promotional materials

DEEWR has developed a new IPSP logo which IPSP providers will be required to use on all resources, websites and materials.

4. Development of a national online IPSP Resource Library

IPSP library resources will be consolidated, from the current 8 libraries into a single library and will predominantly provide online resources and materials which will be accessible free of charge to ECEC services.

5. Simplifying IPSP provider reporting requirements

Reporting will be in templates provided by DEEWR and will include:

1. Six monthly reports consisting of:
 - a brief exception report on activities that have not been undertaken in line with the planned activities and/or any activities that were undertaken but were not in the plan;
 - a short data report; and
 - an expenditure report.
2. Annual report consisting:
 - annual progress report of activities undertaken;
 - audited financial report; and
 - a budget for the next financial year.

6. Reduced administration costs

The amount that providers may use for administering IPSP activities will be reduced to 25% per annum.

The current level of funding providers may use for administration costs is higher than for other programs funded by the Commonwealth. The benchmark for administration costs for small organisations is 20–25% and for larger organisations 15-20%.

DEEWR has taken the higher end of this benchmark in determining the level that can be used for administrative purposes by IPSP providers (which currently on average allocate 27% of funding for administration).

This will result in more funding to deliver support to ECEC services.

7. Clearer focus for Bicultural Support

Bicultural Support will provide access to a suitably skilled and experienced interpreter or bilingual or bicultural person for up to eight hours to work directly with the ECEC service either on or off-site or a combination of the two.

ECEC services will be eligible to receive this support during the initial period when a child from a culturally and linguistically diverse background or from an Indigenous background, enrolls and is settling into a new ECEC service. For the first visit by the interpreter/bilingual/bicultural person, the Inclusion Support Facilitator will, where possible, also be present to assist.

8. Changes to the ISA boundaries

Previously, ISA regions were based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Statistical Local Areas level 4, defined in the Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC) 2004.

In July this year, the ABS introduced a new framework of boundaries (defined in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011) that will be used for the collection and dissemination of all ABS geographically classified statistics.

The ISA boundaries have been aligned with the new Statistical Area Level 2 regions, which very closely match the previous ISA region boundaries. The Region Maps included in the Request for Application pack available from the DEEWR website, show both the new and old boundaries.