

The Inclusion Support Program

The Inclusion Support Program (ISP) is a key component of the Government's Child Care Safety Net, which commenced in July 2016, as an early element of the Child Care Package. Introduced in 2018, this aims to give the most vulnerable children a strong start, while supporting parents or carers to increase their activity including work, study and training.

The ISP assists early childhood education and care (ECEC) services to include children with additional needs by providing tailored inclusion advice and support from the Inclusion Agency. The ISP also assists services to implement a quality, inclusive and equitable practice under the National Quality Framework (NQF) and in accordance with the National Quality Standards (NQS) and Approved Learning Frameworks.

Additional needs may arise for children who:

- ▶ Have a disability or developmental delay
- ▶ Are presenting with challenging behaviours
- ▶ Have a serious medical or health condition, including mental health
- ▶ Are presenting with trauma-related behaviours

The ISP supports ECEC services to meet the needs and requirements of:

- ▶ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- ▶ Children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- ▶ Children from refugee or humanitarian backgrounds
- ▶ Children who may also require specific considerations, such as cultural support, to ensure that they are able to participate fully in ECEC services and experience positive outcomes

Eligible ECEC services include:

- ▶ Long Day Care services
- ▶ Outside School Hours Care including Vacation Care
- ▶ Family Day Care services
- ▶ Occasional Care services
- ▶ Mobile services
- ▶ Community Child Care Fund Restricted (CCCCF)

Inclusion Support QLD is funded by the Australian Government to provide Inclusion Agency support and is managed by KU Children's Services, in partnership with Cairns and District Child Care Development Association.

Contact us for further information

T 1800 811 039
E SELQLD@ku.com.au
www.inclusionsupportqld.org.au

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Inclusion Support Program

Specialist Equipment Library

Information for services

Providing specialist equipment support to Queensland early childhood and child care services





What is the Specialist Equipment Library?

The Specialist Equipment Library (SEL) provides resources to eligible early childhood and child care services to improve their capacity and capability to provide quality inclusive practices, and address participation barriers so children with additional needs can be included alongside their typically developing peers.

Types of equipment available from the SEL

Equipment available may include (but is not limited to):

- ▶ Portable ramps to create access to the environment
- ▶ Standing frames and full support swings to allow a child with high physical needs to participate in the daily programme and activities
- ▶ Hoists, slings, harnesses, change tables, toilet sets or steps, potty chairs, mobile stools and seating or posture aids for educators to assist them to lift and transfer children safely when carrying out basic care functions such as changing or going to the toilet
- ▶ Specialised inclusion toys such as switch toys
- ▶ Specialised furniture such as chairs, tables, desks and positioning equipment
- ▶ Communication cards or charts, and Auslan dictionaries to enable the child and educators to communicate effectively
- ▶ Resources to support the inclusion of Indigenous children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, such as books in languages other than English

Borrowing specialist equipment

The Specialist Equipment Library (SEL) can loan your service a range of equipment free of charge.

Your inclusion professional will assist your service to develop a Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP). The SIP recognises current inclusive capacity and capability and identifies barriers that impact your service's ability to include all children. The SIP may identify a need for specialist equipment to facilitate and support the inclusion of a child (or children) with additional needs in your service.

Your inclusion professional will discuss the Specialist Equipment Library loan process with you and the implications of using equipment in your setting. We will discuss ways the equipment can be used to reduce or overcome inclusion barriers and support the inclusion of children with typically developing peers within the care environment.

Your service will need to complete a Specialist Equipment Library Item Request Form together with the family and their therapist, and submit it to the Inclusion Agency.

The SEL team will contact you to discuss your request, send you a Loan Agreement Form and arrange delivery.

Your service must sign a Loan Agreement Form prior to accessing equipment.

It is the responsibility of each early childhood education and care service accessing equipment from the Specialist Equipment Library to ensure the equipment is fitted by an appropriate professional.

Returning specialist equipment

If you no longer require the specialist equipment, or if you require a different size of equipment, please contact the SEL team via email at SELQLD@ku.com.au to discuss your changed requirements or the process for returning equipment.

Further information

If you would like to discuss your specialist equipment needs, please contact your local Inclusion Hub. To find your local Inclusion Hub please contact us on **1800 811 039** (toll free) or email inclusionsupportqld@ku.com.au. More information, including the SEL Catalogue, can be found on our website www.inclusionsupportqld.org.au/specialist-equipment-library.

Additional information, including non-approved equipment, can be accessed from https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/isp_guidelines_-version_2.2_0.pdf