



Support for children with disability in Queensland kindergartens

A child's participation in a quality early childhood education and care program lays the foundation for their future success in learning and life.

The Queensland and Australian Governments are committed to ensuring all kindergarten aged children have access to a quality early childhood education program in the year before school.

The subsidy program, Disability Inclusion Support for Queensland Kindergartens (DISQK) assists approved kindergarten program providers to support the inclusion of children with diagnosed or suspected disability.

Eligibility

To be eligible for DISQK your child must be:

- kindergarten-eligible age (at least 4 years old by 30 June 2018)
- enrolled in a kindergarten service that is providing an approved kindergarten program
- diagnosed or have a suspected disability with supporting evidence from a recognised specialist in one or more of the six recognised disability categories and/or be taking part in an Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP).

The six recognised disability categories, as defined by the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, are:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Hearing Impairment (HI)
- Intellectual Disability (ID)
- Physical Impairment (PI)
- Speech-Language Impairment (SLI)
- Vision Impairment (VI)



NOTE: Medical conditions, social/emotional disorders and sensory processing (outside a suspicion of Autism Spectrum Disorder) are not recognised for the purposes of DISQK funding.

Approved kindergarten programs convened in long day care settings are not eligible to apply for DISQK funding. If your child has a disability and is attending a long day care service this service may be able to access support through the Australian Government's Inclusion Support Program. www.education.gov.au/inclusion-support-programme.

How to apply

If your child is eligible for support under DISQK, you should talk to the Director at your kindergarten.

With your permission, the kindergarten can apply to the Department of Education and Training for DISQK funding to assist in providing an inclusive kindergarten program.

Application amounts are decided by the kindergarten through a self-validated assessment of the support required to enable your child to participate fully in the kindergarten program.

Applications for DISQK open: 22 January 2018

Applications for DISQK close: 30 September 2018

What can DISQK be used for?

DISQK funding is a contribution towards the costs of supporting your child in kindergarten.

Approved funding will be paid directly to the kindergarten service that your child attends.

The funding can be used for:

- implementing inclusive programs and practices
- establishing routines and curriculum adjustments through professional development for staff
- providing time for the educator to make individualised educational adjustments
- providing a support worker.

Your child's rights

Children with disability have the same rights as all children. They share with all children the right to be valued as individuals and as contributing members of families, communities and society.

Under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Discrimination and other Human Rights Legislation Amendment Act 2009*, every child is entitled to access and participate in early childhood education and care programs which recognise them as active agents in their own lives and learning, respond to them as individuals, respect their families as partners and engage with their diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Australian anti-discrimination and disability discrimination legislation is available at www.hreoc.gov.au/about/legislation/index.html.

Reporting Discrimination

If you feel your child is being discriminated against by an early childhood education and care service, you should talk to the Director of the service involved.

Discrimination laws come under both state laws and federal laws, so you can contact the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland on 1300 130 670 to make an enquiry to determine your best options.

More Information

- visit det.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/service-providers/grants/disability-grant
- phone the DISQK team on (07) 33286720
- email disability.inclusionsupport@det.qld.gov.au