

# Could In Home Care be the childcare solution for YOUR family?



Do you live in an area that is too far from education and care (childcare) services? Do you work hours that are outside normal childcare hours? Do you have a child with an illness or disability or are you unable to care for your children because of illness or disability?

**In Home Care may be the solution.**

## What is In Home Care?

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In Home Care has been designed to provide a high quality, flexible early childhood education and care option to families for whom other child care options don't work.

In Home care is early education and care (childcare) that is delivered in a family's own home by a qualified early childhood educator. It provides access to Government subsidised child care in the family home and is targeted to assist parents or carers who are unable to access other mainstream child care options.

## Which families can get In Home Care?

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To be suitable for In Home Care a family must be eligible for Child Care Subsidy, and able to demonstrate that the other types of approved child care are not suitable or available and where:

- parents or carers are working non-standard or variable hours, outside normal child care service hours
- parents or carers are geographically isolated from other types of child care, particularly in rural or remote locations
- the family has challenging or complex needs, including where families are experiencing challenging situations, and other approved child care services are not able to meet the needs of the child or the family.

Challenging or complex needs mean:

- a child with additional needs or a disability whose early childhood education and care requirements cannot be catered for in another approved child care setting, or through other government funded or community-based services
- a family where a parent is undergoing treatment for a serious illness
- other complex family situations that prevent families from accessing other approved child care types.

## How does it work?

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Once a family's suitability for In Home Care is confirmed, the In Home Care Support Agency works to find a service provider or providers with a suitable educator for the family.

Once everybody agrees that it will work, the educator is engaged by the service provider to provide education and care for the family in the family's home.

Educators will always have first aid training and child protection training. They will also have qualifications in education and care or be studying to obtain these.

## Is it subsidised?

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To receive In Home Care you must be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy – this is the Australian Government subsidy to offset the cost of childcare for the family.

Families are eligible for the Child Care Subsidy based on their family's income, and the hours of 'activity' (work/study/volunteering) the family undertakes (there are a number of exemptions from this test). Families in special situations such as where grandparents are the primary carer or where the child may be at risk, may be eligible for additional subsidies.

If you don't know if you are eligible for Child Care Subsidy you can check at [www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy)

## How much does In Home Care cost per family?

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The cost of In Home Care is set by the service provider. Generally it is somewhere between \$20 and \$45 per hour and the families will pay a 'gap fee' based on the Child Care Subsidy amount they are eligible for.

# Applying for In Home Care

If you think your family fits the criteria to receive In Home Care, contact us – the In Home Care Support Agency. Our role is to advocate for families and ensure where this type of early education and care is seen to be the most suitable type of care for your family that you can access it.

You can call us on 1800 IHCCARE (1800 442273) (free call)  
or email us at [info@ihcsupportagency.org.au](mailto:info@ihcsupportagency.org.au)

- Once you contact us we will assess your family's circumstances for In Home Care suitability as determined by the Department of Education and Training.
- If IHC is determined to be suitable for your family, we then complete a document called a Family Management Plan. This is to help us make sure we can work out exactly what your family requires.
- Our Agency will then work to find In Home Care service providers with a suitable educator to meet your family's needs.
- Care commences once an In Home Care educator has been placed with the family.
- This process will be completed as quickly as possible but it can sometimes take a while to find and match a suitable educator with a family.



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