

# Could In Home Child Care be a solution for families you work with?

Are you a health or family professional working with families in special situations? If you know a family whose circumstances mean that existing education and care (child care) services cannot meet their needs, In Home Care may be the solution.



## Would In Home Care help families that you are working with?

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Do you work with families that:

- have a child who has an illness or disability? *or*
- have an adult member who has an illness or disability which affects their ability to care for their child? *or*
- who live in an area that is too far from other education and care services? *or*
- who work hours that are outside normal childcare hours?

**Do these families need additional childcare support in their own home?**

# In Home Care could be the solution.

## What is In Home Care?

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 families or carers who are unable to access other mainstream child care options.

## Which families are eligible for 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 approved 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.

## **Who can refer a family to the In Home Care Support Agency?**

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Any professional worker who is connected to or is in contact with a family in need can refer – social workers, support group volunteers, early childhood nurses, hospital staff, GPs, teachers or other professionals working for family support agencies.

## **Is In Home Care full time or part time or both?**

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Both. An educator can work with a family as often as a family needs (and can afford). Generally educators would work a full day. They can be there for any number of days a week, depending on what a family needs.

## **Will the family be eligible for government childcare subsidies?**

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Being eligible for the new Child Care Subsidy is a prerequisite for entering the In Home Care program. To check on eligibility requirements go to [www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy)

Families are eligible for a Subsidy based on their family's income, and the hours of 'activity' (work/study/volunteering) the family undertakes. 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.

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

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The cost of In Home Care is set by the individual 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.

## **How soon can an educator start with a family?**

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When a family has been referred and the family accepted into the In Home Care program, care can start in a matter of weeks as long as an appropriate educator is available. There is however, a limited number of places (3200 nationally) in the In Home Care program.

# Referring a family to In Home Care

To refer a family for In Home Care, fill out the online form at [www.ihcsupportagency.org.au/make-a-referral-now](http://www.ihcsupportagency.org.au/make-a-referral-now)

- Once you have referred a family for In Home Care your referral will be assessed for In Home Care suitability as determined by the Australian Department of Education and Training. This may involve us contacting you or the family for further information.
- Once the family has been determined to be suitable a Family and Service Facilitator will be in contact with you and/or the family to draw up a Family Management Plan. A Family Management Plan can help to identify the range of services, both in terms of In Home Care and other support services, required by the family.
- The In Home Care Support Agency will work to find In Home Care service providers with a suitable educator to meet the 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 up to 4 weeks to find and match a suitable educator with a family.



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