



FAQ: IDF Family Day Care Top Up – Inclusion Support Programme

This FAQ provides clarification for services about the intentions of the ISP Guidelines around accessing the Inclusion Development Fund (IDF) Family Day Care (FDC) Top Up and may assist services in applying for this stream of funding.

It provides information in relation to:

- Non-approved purposes for IDF FDC Top Up
- Determining the impact on the educator’s capacity to include a child or children with ongoing high support needs with typically developing peers in a FDC environment, and
- the 2018-19 rate for the IDF FDC Top Up.

It should be read in conjunction with the ISP Guidelines, which provide information on eligibility, funding conditions and application requirements. Note this FAQ may be amended at any time during the program period to provide clarity on this funding stream.

What is the IDF – FDC Top Up?

The IDF FDC Top Up supports eligible FDC services to include children with a disability, or undergoing assessment for a disability, with ongoing high support needs. Where the inclusion of a child results in a significant impact on the educator, resulting in the educator being unable to enrol the maximum number of children as allowed under the National Law, the FDC Top Up provides an additional payment to the educator.

The IDF FDC Top Up is limited to one payment per FDC educator.

What are non-approved purposes for the IDF – FDC Top Up?

The IDF Subsidy for FDC Top Up cannot be approved for the following purposes:

- Assistance for which funding is the responsibility of a state or territory government, other Australian Government programmes or other bodies. Examples include:
 - respite care to assist the parent or carer to take breaks from the care of a child with disability including for holidays, for personal or family needs, or due to ill health, and

- school education including home schooling.
- To provide assistance to access other services, such as one to one early intervention or therapy sessions
- To engage an additional educator/carer in a FDC environment.

How is the application for the IDF – FDC Top Up assessed?

The Inclusion Development Fund Manager (IDFM) assesses applications for the IDF - FDC Top Up. This is based on the information provided when developing the Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP) which is developed in consultation with the Inclusion Agency (IA). When assessing these applications, the following eligibility requirements are considered:

- the child’s ongoing high support needs
- the impact on the educator when including the child with ongoing high support needs
- evidence within the SIP that demonstrates the FDC educator is unable to enrol the maximum number of children allowed under the National Law due the inclusion of the child with ongoing high support needs
- the number, ages and needs of other children in the care environment, and
- the education and care required during the child’s times of attendance.

How is the impact on the FDC educator assessed for the purposes of the IDF – FDC Top Up?

FDC educators may be eligible for the IDF – FDC Top Up if the impact on the educator is determined to be significant, resulting in the educator being unable to enrol the maximum number of children as allowed under the National Law, when caring for a child or children with ongoing high support needs. Table A provides guidance about what the level of impact on the educator in each developmental area may look like.

Table A - Impact on the FDC educator

Developmental area	Moderate Impact on the Educator - No subsidy	Significant Impact on the Educator - FDC Top Up Subsidy
Communication	The educator is required to provide moderate assistance to develop the child’s communication skills, to enable the child to participate in group experiences and to develop the child’s independence.	The educator is required to provide the child with significant support to enable the child to interact with others. The educator consistently implements a combination of communication methods to assist the child to communicate their needs and interests and to

		support the child's communication with others.
Social	The educator is required to provide moderate assistance with the development of the child's social skills. Educator assistance may be required to initiate and/or sustain interactions with peers.	The educator is required to provide the child with significant support to facilitate the child's social interaction with peers. This includes actively assisting or prompting the child's interactions with others. The educator needs to use strategies to raise the child's awareness of their peers or provide significant support to assist the child to engage in play with peers.
Health and Personal Care	The educator is required to provide moderate assistance to follow up the child's self-help routines. This may include providing a moderate level of assistance to enable the child to eat, drink, toilet and dress.	The educator is required to provide the child with significant support for complex needs. This includes providing a high or total degree of assistance to ensure the child's nutritional, hygiene and dress needs are met.
Physical	The educator is required to provide moderate assistance with the child's fine/gross motor skills. This includes providing some regular physical support and monitoring of the child's mobility.	The educator is required to provide significant assistance with the child's fine/gross motor skills. This includes constant physical support and monitoring of the child's positioning and mobility.
Behavioural	The educator is required to provide moderate assistance for the management and monitoring of the child's behaviours.	The educator is required to provide the child with significant support for the management of challenging or extreme behaviours.

If I want to enrol a child with ongoing high support needs and will have less than the maximum number of children, will I be eligible for FDC Top Up?

A FDC service may have less than the maximum number of children allowed under the National Law due to a variety of reasons such as low demand for places, variance in attendance patterns of children, the requirements of families and educator choice. To be eligible for the FDC Top Up the service must clearly

demonstrate the need to continue to limit enrolments is due solely to the impact of including the child with ongoing high support needs in their application. This information will then be considered by the IDFM in assessing the application for FDC Top Up.

Where can I find further information about the application and claims process?

For further information about IDF applications and claims visit the [Inclusion Development Fund Manager website](#).

What is the 2018-19 rate for the IDF FDC Top Up?

The IDF Family Day Care Subsidy rate for 2018-19 is \$10.90/hour.

Where can I get further information on the Inclusion Support Programme and the Inclusion Support Portal?

For further information about the ISP and the Inclusion Support Portal visit the Department of Education, Skills and Employment website: dese.gov.au/inclusion-support-program-isp