Supporting Families to Connect with and Access Education and Care Services

The In Home Care Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training
What is In Home Care?

In Home Care is a flexible service type that provides education and care in the family home where other approved child care options are not available or appropriate. The key principles for IHC are to:

- focus service delivery primarily on early childhood education and care
- ensure consistency in the assessment of families suitability for IHC
- support families to transition to other approved child care services where appropriate
- improve consistency in service delivery at a national level and establish referral pathways to support services, where required.

Who is eligible for In Home Care?

Families must be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy (CCS). Further information about CCS can be found at https://www.education.gov.au/.

Families must demonstrate that other types of approved child care are not suitable or available and where one of more of the following criteria apply:

- 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.

For further information and definitions on Challenging and Complex needs, please refer to the IHC National Guidelines.

What IHC cannot cover?

Some activities are outside the scope of IHC for example:

- household chores such as cleaning, shopping and meal preparation, unless undertaken in relation to caring for the child/children in the session of care
- any activities out of scope of CCS
- allied health services
- supervision of distance education and home schooling
- respite care
- any other activities unrelated to child care.
What does the In Home Care Support Agency do?

The aim of the IHC Support Agency is to support families workforce participation and early childhood education and care requirements where other approved child care services are not available or appropriate. To better support families, the IHC Support Agency will act as a conduit between the family and the IHC service; act as an advocate and assess families’ needs to determine education and care requirements.

What is a Family Management Plan?

The IHC Support Agency will work with the family to develop a Family Management Plan tailored to meet the family’s unique needs. It is an agreed plan between a family and an In Home Care Support Agency that details the needs, requirements and expectations in relation to In Home Care. 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.

If suitability criteria are met, the Family Management Plan is forwarded to an In Home Care Service Provider who will contact the family directly.
In Home Care
Support Agency Tasmania

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