



IN HOME CARE eligibility vs. in scope education and care needs

This information is to help you understand the difference between meeting the eligibility criteria for In Home Care (IHC) and your family having education and care needs that are in scope of IHC.

What is In Home Care?

IHC is a flexible child care option that supports families' workforce participation and early childhood education and care requirements where other mainstream child care options are not available or suitable.

IHC is delivered in the family home supporting families who are either working non-standard or variable hours, are geographically isolated from other approved child care services or those with complex and challenging needs.

Assessment of In Home Care eligibility

Your IHC Support Agency assesses your IHC eligibility application form and supporting evidence to see if you met the eligibility criteria for IHC.

If you met the eligibility criteria for IHC the IHC Support Agency will then work with you to understand your education and care needs. Where your education and care needs are within scope of the [IHC National Guidelines](#) you will be offered a place in the IHC Program and referred to an IHC Service.

This means even if you are assessed as *eligible* for IHC if your family's education and care requirements are not in scope of IHC you may not be offered a place in the program.

Activities out of scope of In Home Care

IHC Services must comply with the Child Care Subsidy rules.

These rules say there is no eligibility for Child Care Subsidy or Additional Child Care Subsidy for a session of care in the circumstances described below.

- when being transported (such as on a bus), unless the transport is incidental to the session of care being provided (such as to take children on an outing)
- in a domestic living arrangement on residential premises which is the child's own home; or when the child's parent or other primary carer stays with the child while the care is taking place, except for care provided by an In Home Care service
- if the educator does not hold a working with children card/check (or equivalent) or where the card/check has been issued but the department has not been notified of the card details

- while the child is attending school or engaged in a formal schooling program (including a home schooling or distance education program) during any part of the session of care (for example, sessions of before and after school care should not be reported to overlap with the child's school hours).

Additionally, IHC can only be provided for care that is within scope of the IHC Program. The following activities are out of scope of IHC:

- household chores such as cleaning, shopping, and meal preparation, unless undertaken in relation to caring for the child/children in the session of care
- education and care provided by educators who do not meet the qualification requirements of IHC educators, except where exemptions apply
- support services not directly related to early childhood education and care, including parental support and disability support
- multi-care (i.e., where care is provided for children from more than one family)
- excursions where they are the primary purpose of a session of care (i.e., the session of care cannot be only for the purpose of an excursion, for example swimming lessons). The excursion may only be incidental to the overall delivery of a child's educational and care program
- allied health services
- respite care
- any other activities not related to early childhood education and care.

Do you need further information?

More information on IHC can be found in the In Home Care National Guidelines and the In Home Care Handbook on the [department's website](#) or contact IHC Support Agency in your jurisdiction.