



Inclusion Development Fund – Innovative Solutions Support Changes – September 2021

Changes to the limits for projects approved under the IDF Innovative Solutions Stream are being introduced to manage the current demand for the Inclusion Development Fund (IDF). These changes will continue to provide equitable access to this unique and flexible funding support for all eligible Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services, while ensuring the responsible management of available funds within the capped Inclusion Support Program.

What is the change?

Starting 14 September 2021 until 30 June 2022, eligible ECEC services can apply and be approved for a maximum of \$10,000 (inclusive of GST), for Innovative Solutions Support projects. This means that once the \$10,000 has been reached no other applications will be approved. It also means that applications over \$10,000 will not be approved. Services may wish to apply more than once but the combined value of the applications must not be more than \$10,000. These changes are to ensure we keep the program financially sustainable during a time of unprecedented demand.

When does this change apply?

This change applies to new applications for Innovative Solutions Support submitted on or after the 14 September 2021.

How does this change apply to Innovative Solution Applications which were submitted prior to the 14 September 2021, but have been returned to the service by the IDFM for follow up and clarification?

Applications returned to the service through the IS Portal for follow up information, but originally submitted prior to the 14 September 2021, are not new applications, as they have previously been submitted to the IDFM. These applications are in the process of being assessed for approval by the IDFM and can be considered by the IDFM and department, if all criteria is met, for approval above \$10,000.

Can Innovative Solutions Support applications to support a group of ECEC services still be submitted?

Yes, applications to support more than one service can be submitted and approved. Each service would need to identify similar barriers to inclusion, which can be addressed, and the outcomes achieved, through the use of the same proposed solution. A group application would demonstrate that there is value in the project being implemented across more than one service, in terms of how

the project design builds educator capacity by engagement across services and providing value for money. The funding limit of \$10,000 applies to group applications.

How does the funding limit for Innovative Solutions Support apply to Family Day Care services?

Family Day Care (FDC) providers can request approval of projects to address barriers to inclusion, like all ECEC services, the funding limit of \$10,000 per ECEC service applies.