

Innovative Solutions Support

Project Guide - Specialised Training and Advice

What is Specialised Training and Advice?

Specialised Training and Advice projects provide training or advice to enable services to meet the specific needs of a particular child or children. Specialised Training and Advice projects may focus on training regarding specific medical and/or care procedures (e.g.: PEG feeding; administration of medication) or providing advice regarding management of a specific condition.

Specialised training and advice is a short-term form of support and usually involves a small number of sessions in a short period of time. It is often required prior to a child commencing at a service in order to ensure that educators can appropriately meet the child's needs.

If a service requires ongoing support to meet the inclusion needs of a child or children then Guided Practice support may be more appropriate.

Specialised Training and Advice and the Strategic Inclusion Plan

In general, it is expected that a service will have an up to date Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP), with current Barriers to inclusion identified and Strategies and Actions developed to address the Barriers, in order to apply for Innovative Solutions Support.

However, in the case of urgent applications for Specialised Training and Advice this is not a requirement. In such cases it is expected that, after the assessment and outcome of the application, the service will then develop a SIP. Where an urgent application has been approved without a SIP, any subsequent applications will not be considered until the service has developed their SIP.

When can a service apply for Specialised Training and Advice?

Specialised Training and Advice supports services to upskill their educators in regard to specific medical conditions and/or disabilities. It should be applied for where there is a need for specific training in order to implement a particular procedure or where educators do not have experience working with a particular condition that requires substantial changes to practice.

It is not available to provide training or advice in relation to conditions for which services are expected to have already undertaken training under the National Regulations and for which there should be existing policies and procedures in place. e.g.: Asthma, allergies or anaphylaxis; routine administration of medication. For more information about this see *The ISP Guideline Series: No. 3 Including Children with Serious Medical and Health Conditions*.

In some cases, the medical and/or other professionals working with a child may be able to provide suitable training, instruction or advice to educators free of charge (or through a NDIS plan), as part of their work with the child and their family. This option should be explored prior to applying for funding to provide Specialised Training and Advice in order to meet the requirement that funding for proposed Innovative Solutions Support projects is not available elsewhere.

Who can provide Specialised Training and Advice?

Support providers of Specialised Training and Advice should have specific qualifications and/or experience re: the condition/s for which the service is applying for support. Where applicable they should be appropriately accredited to deliver the training or advice required.

How can the value of Specialised Training and Advice be sustained?

While Specialised Training and Advice is short term and focused on the needs of a specific child or children, services should also consider how they will embed this knowledge into their practice so that it is sustained in case it is needed again in future.

Where specialised training is provided it may be valuable to train a number of staff to ensure that expertise is retained in case of staff turnover. It may also be worthwhile to consider training that can be “refreshed” as needed in the future, or to incorporate any “advice” provided into policies and procedures so that it becomes embedded in practice.

In most cases Specialised Training and Advice is seen as a one-off form of support. After initial training it is expected that the service will be responsible for refresher training (if this is required). It is not expected that a service would need to re-apply for Specialised Training and Advice in relation to the same condition or medical procedure unless there has been a change to the child’s medical treatment or their condition that require new training, or unless there have been significant changes at the service that mean there are no longer staff at the service with the relevant training.