

Inclusion Funding and Equitable Access

All children should have equitable access to early learning, including those with additional needs. Inclusion is fundamental to delivering high-quality education and achieving positive developmental outcomes.

However, many services face challenges in accessing timely and sufficient funding to support children with additional needs. Complex application processes and delays in funding approvals can create barriers to participation and place additional strain on services.

A more responsive and accessible inclusion funding system is essential to ensure all children can fully participate in early learning.

To strengthen inclusion and equitable access, ACA Victoria is calling for:

- Increased and more accessible kindergarten inclusion funding, enabling services to better support children with additional needs
- Streamlined application and administration processes, reducing administrative burden on services
- Improved timeliness of funding decisions, ensuring support is in place when it is needed
- Recognition that inclusion is central to quality, participation, and child development outcomes
- Policy settings that ensure no child is excluded from early learning due to funding or support limitations

Why this matters:

An inclusive early learning system ensures every child has the opportunity to participate, supporting better long-term educational, social, and developmental outcomes.