

SCAN Program (Supporting Children with Additional Needs)

Fact sheet

The aim of the SCAN Program (Supporting Children with Additional Needs) is to enable preschools to better include children with additional needs within the educational and physical provisions of the preschool. In 2014, the SCAN Program will continue to operate through the same eight SCAN organisations as previously.

Eligibility criteria for SCAN

The SCAN Program provides funding for children with delayed development, specifically diagnosed disabilities, severe behavioural or social/emotional problems, moderate to severe language delays and severe chronic health conditions. Children must be:

- At least 3 years old on or before 31 July; or
- At least 4 years old on or before 31 July in that preschool year and not yet in compulsory schooling.

Stronger focus on early childhood education

Children in the SCAN Program will have tailored learning programs to ensure that their needs are met and that they can participate effectively in a quality early childhood education program. The child's learning program must align with the *Early Years Learning Framework*, which espouses learning outcomes that are broad and observable, acknowledging the diversity of all children. The education program will be developed in consultation with the child's family and with the assistance of other relevant professionals.

Role for families

A family's knowledge of their child's support needs is invaluable and families are invited to both provide information about their child's ongoing support needs and also participate as partners in planning for quality learning experiences.

If additional expertise is required for accurate determination of a child's support needs, the child's family may arrange contact with support agencies or give permission for preschool staff (or the SCAN organisations) to contact support agencies for additional information.

How SCAN money can be used

The majority of the funding must be provided directly to preschools in order to ensure access and inclusion of children with additional needs to an early childhood education program consistent with the *Early Years Learning Framework*.

SCAN organisations also provide capacity building and professional development for preschools in order to ensure that their staff are confident, thoughtful and informed in their interactions with children with additional needs, and to foster a focus on specific learning outcomes for these children. Another key aim of the SCAN Program is the acquisition of specialised equipment (not medical equipment) to assist children with additional needs to access the early childhood education program.

In order to further maximise funding to preschools, there are improved accountability measures for the SCAN organisations including a 20% cap on administrative expenses.

Determining the level of support required

To determine the support and adjustments required, the preschool will:

- observe the child in the early childhood education setting
- work with the child's family to understand the child's specific learning needs
- gather information with parental permission from other support agencies working with the child and their family.

For further information on the features of the SCAN Program, see:

www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care/funding/grants-program

Early Childhood Education and Care SCAN Program (Supporting Children with Additional Needs) Grants Program Guidelines, November 2013 or contact the

ECECD funding team on

T 1300 755 426 or ecec.funding@det.nsw.edu.au