



E ducation

# 2016 Preschool Disability Support Program

## FAQs for Community Preschools

### **Q1. When will the second round PDSP Child Focused Targeted Support applications open for 2016?**

The portal will open for the **second** round on 26 April 2016 and will close on 20 May 2016.

This second round will allow preschools to submit applications for any child who has been assessed as having a disability, who starts at a preschool in 2016 and for whom an application was not submitted in the first 2016 main round.

### **Q2. Will children funded in the second round have their funding backdated to the date they enrolled?**

Yes. Applications made in the second 2016 round for children who enrolled in Term 1 2016 will be backdated to the date of first enrolment.

### **Q3. What documents will be required for the PDSP Child Focused Targeted Support application?**

Each application will require a copy of the most recent and relevant assessment, or letter from a relevant professional outlining the child's disability, or disabilities, and additional support that may be required. Documentation must be on letterhead and signed by the relevant professional. For electronic documentation, the signature block must include the relevant professional qualification.

### **Q4. What support will preschools get?**

Preschools will receive on-going communication, telephone and email support throughout the year from Northcott to assist with the CFTS application process. Northcott will be providing on-going training sessions about the program throughout 2016. In the event that preschools request assistance, they can contact Northcott if they feel there is a need for onsite assistance to establish the level of support a child needs in the preschool.

### **Q5. Will preschools receive the Universal Disability Loading in 2016?**

Yes. Preschools will receive two Universal Disability Loading (UDL) payments for 2016. These payments will be made in December 2015 and July 2016. The UDL funding rate is based on a per child rate and assessed on the total enrolments of children eligible for funding under the Preschool Funding Model (PFM). The UDL allocation received by preschools is determined by the number of 3, 4 and 5 year old children enrolled at the service.

### **Q6. How can the universal disability loading be used?**

The universal disability loading is an automatic payment made to preschools by the Department. Parents or carers don't need to apply for this. The Department will allocate funds to each preschool based on the prior year's preschool census data.

As this loading is not tied to any particular child, preschools can use the funds in general ways to support the educational participation of all children with additional needs or disability. For example, the loading may go towards the cost of arranging

professionals to assess and provide advice about a preschool's facilities or programs, or to conduct an information session for staff about a particular disability. Alternatively, the funds can be used to purchase additional resources for children or relevant materials to develop the skills of staff.

## **Q7. How will the application process for child focused targeted support work?**

Applications will continue to be made to the program manager, Northcott, who administers the PDSP on behalf of the Department of Education. The online application forms are available through Northcott's PDSP Portal <https://www.northcott.com.au/pdsp>. Applications will not be accepted outside the dates of the two funding rounds.

Northcott has the discretion, in some situations, to consider applications outside the two 2016 funding rounds for children whose developmental needs place them at significant risk and disadvantage in the preschool setting. All relevant supporting documentation for each child must be included in the application including a copy of the most recent and relevant assessment, or official correspondence from a relevant professional outlining the child's disability - or disabilities, and additional support that may be required to assist that child access a preschool program.

Northcott assesses all applications to ensure children with the highest need will receive targeted support funding.

## **Q8. How can the child focused targeted support be used?**

Child focused targeted support provides funding to assist community preschools support specific children with disability or additional needs. Targeted support funding can be used for:

- additional staff;
- professional development, including course costs related to the education inclusion of children with additional needs
- specialist advice and support;
- purchase or hire of equipment that is necessary for educational purposes (excluding medical equipment); and
- minor capital improvements.

Each funded child has to have an Individual Learning Plan, and preschools will report on whether previously agreed educational objectives have been met. Preschools receiving funding must submit an annual report certifying that funds have been spent in accordance with the program guidelines.

## **Q9. How will Emergency Funding work in 2016?**

Funding may be provided for a child who needs significant additional support and supervision that can allow them to participate in the preschool program, irrespective of whether that child has a specific diagnosis. This may include circumstances where there is an extended delay to obtain the required diagnosis; where the safety of the child, other children or staff at the preschool is a concern, and where there are no other support services in the local community that could provide expertise and support to include the child in the preschool program.

Eligible services should contact Northcott PDSP by telephone on 1800 455 522 to discuss an application for 'Emergency' funding.

## **Q10. How do I apply for a variation in 2016?**

All applications for variation are now made via the portal, and will only be accepted during the second application round (ie. 26 April 2016 to 20 May 2016.) If a child's enrolment details change post 20 May 2016, no application for variation is required.

Northcott

1800 455 522

[pdsp@northcott.com.au](mailto:pdsp@northcott.com.au)

<https://www.northcott.com.au/pdsp>

Early Childhood Education and Care

1300 755 426

[ecec.funding@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ecec.funding@det.nsw.edu.au)

[www.dec.nsw.gov.au/ecec](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/ecec)

© November 2015

NSW Department of Education