

# Foundational Supports for children, families, carers and kin

Governments are working together to design and deliver additional supports in the community. These are known as Foundational Supports. They are additional supports to mainstream services and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

This information sheet is about **Foundational Supports for children with developmental concern, delay and/or disability, and their families, carers and kin.**

## Why Foundational Supports for children are needed

An independent review of the NDIS found current services and supports for children with developmental delay or concern and their families, need to be better. It also found the support system around the NDIS needs to be stronger.

In 2021, 1 in 5 children were developmentally vulnerable in one or more areas of the Australian Early Development Census by the time they reach school. Approximately a quarter of all NDIS participants are children younger than 9.

There is a clear need for extra supports for children with developmental delay or concern, or disability, under 9. These supports also need to extend to the whole family and those who care for children. This is where Foundational Supports comes in.

## What might Foundational Supports include?

Foundational Supports will help children under 9 with developmental concern, delay and/or disability. They will also give their families and carers the tools and information they need to support a child to learn and play at home and in the community.

There are 2 types of Foundational Supports focused on supporting children.



### General Foundational Supports:

- **Accessible information** to connect children and their families to the right supports for them – like peer support groups, or social and emotional support for parents and carers.
- **Giving families and carers the tools and information they need to support their children.** This could include help to navigate services, support with setting up routines, access to short courses and practical parent support workshops or programs.



## Targeted Foundational Supports:

Targeted supports operate between mainstream services (e.g. in areas like early childhood education and care (ECEC) settings and schools) and the specialist supports accessed through the NDIS. They might include specific supports like:

- **Support from allied health** including one off or low intensity access to speech pathology, physiotherapy, psychology, occupational therapy or other services.
- **One off or low-cost assistive technology** that can make a child's everyday life easier and safer.
- **One-on-one support for people caring for children by giving them skills and information.** This could include self-advocacy skills, connecting families with supports and services, practical strategies and emotional support.

## How will these extra supports help?

- Children are supported earlier with help that best meets their needs.
- Families and carers connect with, and access supports and services, that best support their child and family.
- Service providers and professionals can give better support to children with developmental concern, delay and/or disability and their families and carers.

## Have your say

We want to know what you think could be included in Foundational Supports for children with developmental delay or concern, and how they might work.

For example, we want to know:

- How you get information and advice about support you or your child might need and how to access it?
- How you can be supported to connect with and navigate services, make decisions, and take part in the community?
- What the barriers are to getting support for your child or family?
- What additional supports you need and what that might look like?
- How supports outside of the NDIS could work better together including with mainstream settings like schools and childcare?



## Have your say or find out more:

- Visit [engage.dss.gov.au/foundational-supports](https://engage.dss.gov.au/foundational-supports)
- Contact [Foundational.Supports@dss.gov.au](mailto:Foundational.Supports@dss.gov.au)

