



Northern Territory Inclusion Agency (NT-IA)

Early Childhood
Australia

Northern Territory Branch

NEWSLETTER

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Darwin office of Early Childhood Australia NT is moving!

From late November 2016 NT IA (ECA NT) will be located at

Unit 3, 10 Mel Road, Berrimah

All other contact details will remain the same

Phone: (08) 8986 7142

Email: ecant@earlychildhood.org.au

Freecall: 1800 959 995

www.nt-ia.com.au



Interested in a New Challenge?

Join ECA-NT as an Inclusion Professional

To succeed in this role you will need:

- ◆ Tertiary qualifications in early childhood education (early/middle childhood) with relevant sector experience
- ◆ Demonstrated experience in inclusive practice and/or middle childhood settings
- ◆ Experience working with eligible ECCC services (birth to 12 years)
- ◆ Experience and competence in working in across cultural and Indigenous community contexts
- ◆ High Level oral and written communication skills including use of information technology
- ◆ Willingness and ability to travel to remote communities including overnight (light aircraft and vehicle).

Want to Know More: call Maree Bredhauer on Mob: 0429 864 702 or email maree.bredhauer@ecant.org.au

ECA-NT as the NT- Inclusion Agency is fully focussed on supporting services and educators to build capacity and capability to include all children. Our qualified and experienced Inclusion Professionals are ready and equipped to support you in the development of the service Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP) that will identify strategies for change and growth. We are now fully set up in both Darwin and Alice Springs and will in the new year begin to work on the development of a number of support networks across the territory to value add to the process of providing tailored support through:

- Onsite visits to observe and discuss the strengths, challenges and barriers to Inclusion
- Assisting Educators to review policy, program and practices to support inclusion
- Providing practical advice, strategies and possible solutions to inclusion barriers and to help educators learn about inclusion, and support diversity.

Specialist Equipment Library (SEL)

The Specialist Equipment Library (SEL) provides resources to eligible early childhood and child care services (ECCC) services to improve their capacity and capability to provide quality inclusive practices, and address participation barriers so children with additional needs can be included alongside their typically developing peers. Some examples of equipment available:

Portable ramps to create access to the environment; standing frames; toilet seats or steps; mobile stools and seating or posture aids; specialised inclusion toys such as switch toys; specialised furniture such as chairs, tables and desks; Communication cards or charts; other equipment recommended by therapists.

Identifying the need for SEL and applying for inclusion supports is a three step process

Step 1: Contact NT-IA and your ECA-NT Inclusion Professional

Step 2: Develop a SIP in collaboration with your Inclusion Professional

Step 3: If the SIP identifies the need for specialist equipment to assist your service to include all children the IA will assist you to access the SEL.

ECA –NT Professional learning and resources

A range of resources are available to support services to provide inclusive environments and programmes for all children. Professional learning is a great way to build knowledge and skill around inclusion and this can come in a number of forms. The most helpful resources and or professional learning helps us to reflect on our practice, support shared learning with colleagues, expand thinking and challenges us to think differently.

ECA-NT Branch as part of the Early Childhood Australia has access to a wide range of resources and current research in Early Childhood Education and Care. ECA–NT staff have extensive current practical experience and skills alongside a strong theoretical knowledge of current research. We have range of magazines, books, equipment and music available for Educators to access. In support of your Quality Improvement and Strategic Inclusion plans (SIP) ECA-NT is able to provide you with a range of options for working with your staff and parents to achieve your objectives. Options Include:

- Onsite support to assess needs and development of a professional learning plan
- Practical advice and assistance with reflective practice one site/on the floor support
- Facilitation of your Service access to a range of supports to ensure quality practice is embedded and sustained over time
- Coaching and mentoring of staff (phone or skype)
- Focused workshops for whole staff or small groups. We have a range of workshop topics on offer, including *What is inclusion?*, *Making Music*; *Music and story connect*; *Reflective Practice* and *Inclusion Ready* parent workshops

Maree Bredhauer

Manager

Early Childhood Australia NT Branch

What is the IS Portal?

The Inclusion Support Portal (IS Portal) is a web-based application which manages all early childhood and child care services' (ECCC services) interaction with the ISP. It facilitates the development of an online Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP) which is the first step to accessing support from ISP, including applying for funding from the Inclusion Development Fund (IDF).

Services should contact their Inclusion Agency (IA) to receive support under the ISP. The IA has engaged Inclusion Professionals to assist services build their inclusion practice including developing their SIP and applying for IDF funding where appropriate.

In order to access the IS Portal, services need to register for an AUSkey. Even if you do not currently have a child requiring inclusion support enrolled in your service, you should register **now** for an AUSkey so that you can access practical support from an Inclusion Professional, borrow from the Special Equipment library and/or apply for Inclusion Support Funding in the future, if necessary.

Even if you are not applying for funding and only require practical support from an Inclusion Professional, you **must** have a current Strategic Inclusion Plan which is developed in the IS Portal.

Delay in setting up your AUSkey now may lead to delays in accessing support for a child when you need it.

Register for an Administrator AUSkey

Eligible associates of an Australian business number (ABN) can use the online registration to obtain an Administrator AUSkey.

If you are not an eligible associate, an Administrator AUSkey user will need to register you.

For the online registration you will need;

- the ABN of the business you want the AUSkey to be linked to
- your full legal name
- your date of birth
- your personal tax file number (TFN) – Providing your personal TFN is not mandatory, but will speed up the registration process. If you don't provide your TFN you will need to call **1300 AUSkey (1300 287 539)** and provide extra details so we can confirm your identity and complete the registration.
- an email address that only you have access to.

Once you submit your application your activation code and reference number will appear on the screen.

You should print or save this page as you will need the activation code to activate your

AUSkey and the reference number if you contact us about your registration.

An email with instructions on how to set up your AUSkey will be sent to you.

You can register at: <https://abr.gov.au/AUSkey/Registering-for-AUSkey/Register-for-an-AUSkey/>

The Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP)

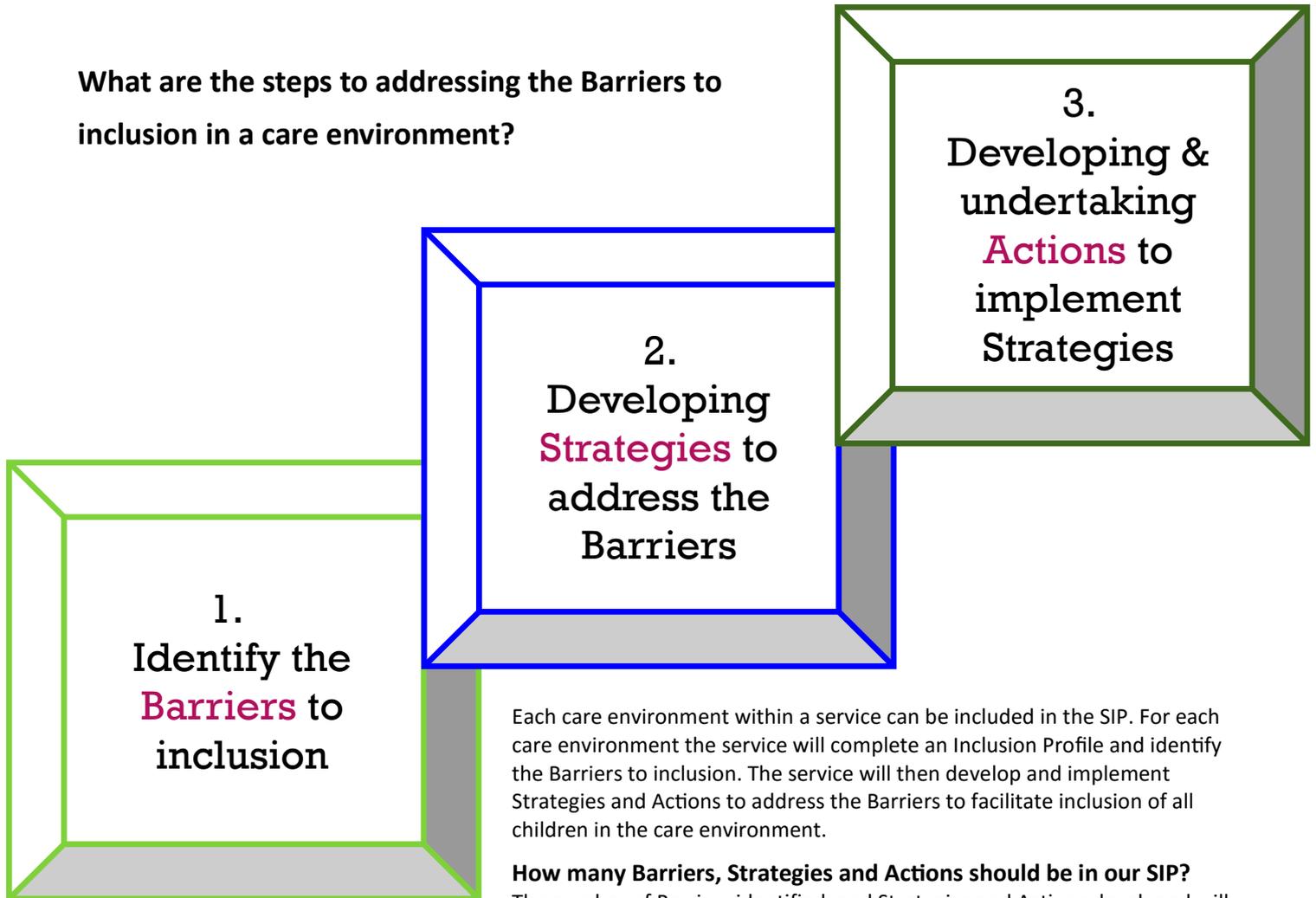
Barriers, Strategies and Actions FAQs



In partnership with

Include Me.
Child and Family
Inclusion Programs.

What are the steps to addressing the Barriers to inclusion in a care environment?



As a minimum, it is expected a service considers the full range of Barrier Categories when determining the Barriers to inclusion, rather than only Child Specific Barriers.

Barrier Categories also include:

- Educator
- Programme Structure
- Parent Concerns/Expectations
- Physical Environment and
- Supervision of All Children

Addressing Barriers to inclusion across the Categories will assist the service to adjust the program, environment and practices to include all children, rather than expecting children to change to fit the program.

For **every Barrier** to inclusion identified there must be **at least one Strategy** identified to address that Barrier. There will usually be multiple Strategies needed to address one Barrier.

For **every Strategy** there must be **at least one Action** identified to implement the Strategy. There will sometimes be multiple Actions needed to implement one Strategy.



Why are Actions important?

Actions show on a day to day basis what educators will do to implement their strategies to reduce or remove any barriers to inclusion in the care environment.

If a service is applying for the IDF Subsidy for an Additional Educator the actions will show why the increased educator to child ratio is needed, including **what educators will do** and **when they will do it**.

How do Actions help services to decide how many days and hours of IDF Subsidy they want to request?

It is expected that an additional educator would not be required for all the hours a child with ongoing high support needs attends the service. Services, with support from their Inclusion Professional, will decide on the actions to be implemented to address the barriers to inclusion. This discussion and completion of the specific Actions in the SIP will assist services to decide **how many days** and **how many hours** of IDF subsidy each day they need.



How specific should Actions be?

As Actions are implemented to reduce or remove barriers to inclusion, they are **specific to the care environment**. Actions should detail the **specific** tasks and approaches educators will implement and **what times of the day** they will be implemented.

Educators reading an Action should be able to implement the Action based on the detail provided in the Action Item, including the Resources listed.



How do I write an Action?

When writing the Action on the IS Portal, it is recommended services, as a minimum, include the information below:

1. Give a **brief description** of the action item (provides an overview of the action/step educators will take towards implementing the strategy)
2. Outline **how and when** your service will implement this action (outlines how the action will be implemented/what educators will do/when will they do it)
3. Outline what **resources** will be used to implement this action (states what specific resources educators will use to implement the action)

How do I use the information in the SIP on a daily basis in the care environment?

The Strategies and Actions in your SIP need to be implemented on an ongoing basis in the care environment over the 12 month period. Barriers, Strategies and Actions can be updated at any time throughout this period and Progress Notes can be added to the SIP under the Actions.

To ensure all educators have access to the information in the SIP you can:

- take screenshots from the IS Portal,
- or cut and paste the information into a paper based SIP available via the link https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/strategic_inclusion_plan.pdf

In the future a print version of your SIP will be available through the IS Portal.



Useful Contacts

Inclusion Development Fund Manager

Freecall: 1800 824 955

Email: idf@ku.com.au

PO Address: PO Box Q132, QVB Post Office, Sydney, NSW 1230

<http://www.idf.org.au/home>

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Early Childhood Australia NT Branch

Darwin Office

Street address: Unit 3, 10 Mel Road, Berrimah

Phone: (08) 8986 7142

PO Address: PO Box 41936, Casuarina, NT, 0811

Alice Springs Office

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Phone: (08) 7999 8001

PO Address: PO Box 1264, Alice Springs, NT 0870

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OT for Kids

Phone: (08) 8984 4814

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Street Address: 5/6 Woodlake Boulevard, Durack NT

<http://www.otforkidsnt.com.au/>

Autism SA (NT Advisor)

Phone: (08) 8947 4800

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PO Address: PO Box 36595, Winnellie NT 0821

Street Address: Unit 3, 10 Mel Road, Berrimah NT

<http://www.autismsa.org.au>