



Family and Early Childhood Services

Disability Services Queensland has a range of individualised programs available to assist Queenslanders with a disability.

Disability Services Queensland's Family and Early Childhood Services supports families with a child aged up to six years who has or is at risk of a significant developmental delay.

With the support and information provided through the service, families are able to strengthen their knowledge, skills and resources, giving them a better opportunity to help promote their child's developmental learning and inclusion in the local community.

Our teams of specialist staff work with families and their children, using a family-centred approach. Our staff:

- acknowledge the importance of parents and carers as the child's most valuable source of support
- are flexible in understanding and meeting a diverse range of family needs and values
- focus on the child within family and community environments.

Our Family and Early Childhood Services teams are located in various Disability Services Queensland service centres across Queensland.

What services and supports are provided by Family and Early Childhood Services?

Services and supports are planned to meet the unique needs of each child and their family.

These may include:

- developmental assessment and strategies to promote the child's learning and skills development in a range of areas including communication, play, gross and fine movements and independence skills

- practical information and support on the child's developmental needs
- support with planning and decision-making for current and future needs
- assistance and strategies for understanding and responding to behavioural issues
- groups and information sessions on areas such as toilet training, communication, play and behaviour
- opportunities to link with other families and support groups
- connections with other services and agencies such as playgroups, childcare, kindergarten, school and respite support
- information and support for community agencies to promote the inclusion of children with a disability.

Services may be provided in the family home, at a Disability Services Queensland service centre or other designated centres such as a childcare centre or family day care.

Who is eligible to receive assistance through Family and Early Childhood Services?

To be eligible for Family and Early Childhood Services, your child must:

- be less than six years of age
- have a significant developmental delay or be at risk of significant developmental delay in the majority of child development areas
- reside in the geographic catchment area of the team providing the service.

Your child must also meet the criteria outlined in the Disability Services Queensland Eligibility Policy¹.

Your child must be one of the following:

- an Australian citizen

¹ These criteria reflect the definitions provided in section 11 of the *Disability Services Act 2006*.



- a permanent Australian resident
- a Temporary Protection Visa holder
- a New Zealand citizen who arrived in Australia prior to 26 February 2001
- a member of a family on a work or study visa sponsored by the Australian Government.

Your child must also live in Queensland and have a disability that:

- is attributable to an intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairment or a combination of impairments
- results in a substantial reduction of the person's capacity in one or more of the following areas: communication; social interaction, learning, mobility, or self care/management
- results in you needing support **and**
- is permanent or likely to be permanent (and may or may not be of a chronic episodic nature) **and**
- manifests itself before the age of 65.

Referrals

Your child must be referred to Family and Early Childhood Services by you (the parent), health professionals, government or non-government agencies or other people who are involved in the child's life. Parental permission is required for a referral.

How do I apply for support?

Once your child has been referred, the first step is to determine if the child is eligible to receive this service.

To determine your child's eligibility, we will need to gather information from you and any other people who provide assistance to the child.

We will also need to observe and assess the child's developmental abilities.

Once your child is eligible to receive Family and Early Childhood Services, our specialist teams will work with you to develop a plan for supports and services.

For more information about Family and Early Childhood Services, please contact your nearest Disability Services Queensland regional office:

Greater Brisbane

Level 1, 27 Peel Street, South Brisbane
Telephone: 3109 7007

Moreton

5-7 Wharf Street, Ipswich
Telephone: 3280 1872

Gold Coast

24 Tansey Street, Beenleigh
Telephone: 3884 7001

Sunshine Coast

Level 3, 33 King Street, Caboolture
Telephone: 5490 1180

Darling Downs/South West Queensland

Level 1, 162 Hume Street, Toowoomba
Telephone: 4615 3900

Wide Bay Burnett

271 Albert Street (Cnr Albert & Adelaide St),
Maryborough
Telephone: 4121 1432

Fitzroy/Central West Queensland

74 Ward Street, Rockhampton
Telephone: 4932 1600

Mackay/Whitsunday

110 Wood Street, Mackay
Telephone: 4944 6200

North Queensland

340 Ross River Road, Aitkenvale
Telephone: 4727 0666

Far North Queensland

130 McLeod Street, Cairns
Telephone: 4046 7200

Disability Services Queensland

Freecall: 1800 177 120*

Fax: 3896 3467

Telephone typewriter (TTY): 1800 010 222*

Web: www.disability.qld.gov.au

Email: disabilityinfo@disability.qld.gov.au

* Calls from mobile phones are charged at applicable rates.

