

ITC Significant Disability

This factsheet provides information to Service Providers about the Intensive Therapeutic Care - Significant Disability (ITC SD), with new contracts to deliver these services expected to be in place from 1 July 2019.

What is ITC Significant Disability?

ITC Significant Disability (ITC SD) is a new placement type in the broader ITC service system to better support eligible children and young people with significant disabilities.

Children and young people suitable for ITC SD are either unable to be supported in foster care, or require specialised or intensive supports to maintain stable care arrangements. ITC SD caters to a very limited cohort of children and young people who have extremely high support needs related to significant, complex and often multiple disabilities. Access to ITC SD placements is distinct from other ITC service types and will be determined on a case by case basis.

Children and young people suitable for this placement type have disability support needs (distinct from developmental norms) that significantly impact on the majority of adaptive functioning domains and will require intensive supports to maintain placement stability, above the provisions offered in other ITC service types.

FACS is introducing a new Intensive Therapeutic Care Significant Disability placement type, under the Permanency Support Program, which is for a limited number of children and young people in statutory residential care arrangements who have extremely high and complex needs related to significant disability.

What are the key objectives of this model?

FACS has developed the following reform objectives to improve outcomes for children and young people in ITC Significant Disability, which have also guided the procurement and provision of services:

- **Accredited model of care:** A key objective of introducing this service type is to ensure that children and young people who have extremely high support needs related to their disability receive high quality supports in stable, safe and **accredited placements**. While some Special Care arrangements will continue for those children and young people that may need temporary arrangements until a suitable contracted placement is available, this reform aims to ensure longer-term stable and accredited placements are available to the greatest extent possible.
- **Continuum of Care and Additional Support Options:** Children and young people in ITC SD should experience seamless access to therapeutic and disability supports, including those that are funded by mainstream and specialist NDIS providers, as well as funding through this ITC SD model.
- **Predictability of funding arrangements:** Moving to a consistent and contracted model of care will ensure both oversight and predictability to the quality of services for eligible children and young people, and the funding arrangements that support these placements.

ITC SD Homes

While time-limited individualised placements are available in this model upon prior FACS approval, ITC SD is fundamentally a '**4-bed**' model. However, many eligible children and young people are currently in individualised placements. A key objective of ITC SD is to have plans in place to group children into homes with additional supports as required where it is appropriate and safe to do so.

Unlike mainstream ITC where providers were asked to establish ITC Homes at pace in accordance with agreed implementation plans, in ITC SD transition and individual placement decisions are expected to inform the implementation timeframes of new homes.

FACS expects that Providers will work in close collaboration with FACS during the transition period to:

- establish plans to transition eligible children and young people currently in long-term individualised settings to grouped homes where this best meets the care needs of individual children and young people; and closely consider factors such as local demand, client mix and placement matching as part of the decision to establish a new ITC Significant Disability Home.

FACS will also be trialling the **Independent Support Needs Assessment (ISNA)** concept which will provide advice on both grouping recommendations, and additional funding supports required by the Child Needs Package.

What is the Difference between ITC and ITC SD?

Like mainstream ITC, ITC Significant Disability is also for children and young people aged above 12 who have high and complex needs. In addition, there are strict eligibility criteria regarding extremely high needs related to significant disability.

Placements in ITC SD are only suitable for children and young people where their disability-related support needs have a significant global impact on daily functioning requiring a number of intensive supports, and where:

- step down into a less intensive placement type within 2 years is unlikely;
- most placement types in mainstream ITC are unsuitable and/or unsafe;
- intensive supports to maintain stability in their care arrangements are required; and
- the impact of disability-related needs will significantly reduce independence and require specialist Health, Education and Disability services.

In many cases, this will continue into adulthood and require adult disability services, including adult disability accommodation.

Funding

Like the mainstream ITC funding model, the funding model for ITC Significant Disability also includes four packages. However there are some key differences (as well as many similarities) between these funding models. The table below provides an overview of what these differences are:

Package	Difference between Mainstream ITC and ITC Significant Disability
Initial case plan goal	There are no differences with regards to this package between mainstream ITC and ITC Significant Disability. Children and Young People in ITC SD are eligible to receive a goal package in line with their case plan goal. It's anticipated that the majority of children or young people in ITC Significant Disability will have a case plan goal of long term care.
Baseline package	The baseline package for ITC Significant Disability is \$330,167 per annum. This is considerably higher than the baseline package for any of the mainstream ITC baseline packages and reflects the greater level of need for children and young people in this service type, including a guaranteed active night shift by direct care staff with a second staff member employed on a sleepover shift.
Child Needs package	The child needs package consists of a range of menu items that can be selected on the basis of the specific needs and goals of the child or young person. Unlike the mainstream ITC funding model, this package is not categorised in terms of low, medium or high. Children and young people in ITC SD have very unique and specific needs based on their conditions and trauma history. The menu items in the child needs package provides the flexibility to tailor the supports required and ensure that the unique needs of children and young people in this service type are met.
Other specialist package	There are no differences in this package between mainstream ITC and ITC Significant Disability. Children and young people in ITC Significant Disability are able to access all relevant payments (subject to eligibility) in this package.

A separate fact sheet is provided on the ITC Significant Disability funding model to provide further information on the model and the associated processes and eligibility requirements.

What will be the referral process for ITC SD placements?

The current referral process for new entries to ITC Significant Disability will remain the same until the implementation of the ISNA concept is finalised.

FACS CFDUs with support from Contract Managers will continue to complete an '*ITC Significant Disability Application Form*' for each child or young person currently in their care who they consider will meet the eligibility criteria. The application form with supporting evidence should be submitted to OOHCRecontracting@facs.nsw.gov.au.

Each application form and supporting evidence will be reviewed to confirm eligibility and suitability for ITC Significant Disability. FACS Contract Managers and the Central Access Unit are then informed about the outcome of the application process.

Please refer to separate Facts Sheets on:

- **The Independent Support Needs Assessment (ISNA) Concept**
- **Transitioning of Children and Young People to ITC Significant Disability Placements**
- **ITC Significant Disability Funding Model**

More information

For more information, contact the FACS OOHC Recontracting team at OOHCRecontracting@facs.nsw.gov.au
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