KINDERGARTEN INCLUSION SUPPORT (KIS) PROGRAM: Specialised Equipment Trial (SET)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

| **Question** | **Answer**  |
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| **What is the purpose of KIS SET?** | KIS SET enables greater inclusion of children with significant disabilities to participate in a Victorian Government funded kindergarten program, so that all children can access, participate and achieve positive learning outcomes as defined in the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework.  |
| **What does the trial do?** | The trial will loan specialised equipment to funded kindergarten services across Victoria to support and facilitate the inclusion of children with significant disabilities.  |
| **What is the timeframe for the trial?** | The trial covers the 2021 and 2022 kindergartens years. |
| **Is there a cost for specialised equipment?** | Specialised equipment will be available for loan, at no cost, to funded kindergarten services. |
| **Who is eligible for KIS SET?** | A child with a disability as defined by the Disability Act 2006, attending a Victorian Government funded kindergarten program.  |
| **What evidence is required to access KIS SET?** | Confirmation of the child’s disability diagnosis must be attached with the application. |
| **Who can apply for KIS SET?** | All Victorian Government funded kindergarten can submit a loan request application if prescribed by the child’s therapist. |
| **When can an application be made?** | An application can be made at any time during the kindergarten year. |
| **Who is responsible for completing and submitting the application?** | The authorised person of a kindergarten service is responsible for completing and submitting the application in partnership with the child’s therapist (occupational therapist/ physiotherapist) and parent, guardian or carer.  |
| **Are there any conditions for accessing KIS SET?** | Yes. Specialised equipment must be prescribed by the child’s therapist (physiotherapist or occupational therapist)  |
| **What is the responsibility of the child’s therapist?** | The child’s physiotherapist or occupational therapist must prescribe the specialised equipment to be used by the child. It is also the responsibility of the prescribing therapist to support the set up and fitting of the equipment. The prescribing therapist will also be responsible for on-site training of staff in the correct use of the equipment provided. |
| **Can a kindergarten service apply for KIS SET if a child has an NDIS plan?**  | Yes. As inclusion supports related to educational settings are excluded from NDIS funding, the child’s kindergarten service can apply for KIS SET to ensure supports are available for the child to access a Victorian Government funded kindergarten program and achieve positive learning outcomes. |
| **If more than one child with a significant disability is attending a funded kindergarten group, can only one application be submitted?** | No. If more than one child with a significant disability is attending a funded kindergarten group, an individual application must be submitted for each child. |
| **What type of equipment is available?** | Equipment available from KIS SET may include (but is not limited to) standing frames to allow a child with high physical needs to participate in activities in a kindergarten program and change tables, toilet seats or steps, potty chairs, mobile stools, hoists, slings, harnesses and seating or posture aids. |
| **What equipment is not available?** | Specialised equipment not available from SET includes (but is not limited to) equipment provided under the NDIS, therapeutic equipment (for example, hearing aids and therapist tables), equipment that the kindergarten service would reasonably be expected to supply as part of the provision of a quality early learning environment, equipment that the parent or carer would reasonably be expected to supply for their child (for example, wheelchairs, walking frames and body suits), equipment for which there are hygiene issues (for example, padded cots), specialist inclusion toys such as switch and sensory toys and communication cards or charts, and Auslan dictionaries to enable the child and educators to communicate effectively. |
| **Does a parent, guardian or carer need to give their consent for the equipment to be used by their child?** | Yes. The parent, guardian or carer must consent for the specialised equipment to be used by the child. |
| **Who is the administering organisation?** | Yooralla administers KIS SET on behalf of the Department of Education and Training. |
| **What does the administering organisation do?** | The administering organisation is responsible for all aspects of KIS SET including assessments of applications and provision of specialised equipment. |
| **Where do I send the loan request application?** | The completed loan request application and supporting documentation are to be submitted by email to:KISSpecialistEquipment@yooralla.com.au |
| **How long will it take for an application to get assessed?**  | Applications will be assessed within a two-week period of the submission date. Applications lodged in late December or at the beginning of the New Year the notification timeline may require some adjustment to accommodate the Christmas/New Year holiday period. |
| **How long will it take for the equipment to reach the** **kindergarten service?** | Pending availability and the return of the signed loan agreement, the specialised equipment item will be sent by courier to the kindergarten service within one calendar month from notification of outcome. |
| **What is the loan agreement?** | The loan agreement sets out the terms and conditions associated with borrowing the specialised equipment. |
| **What happens if a child transfers from one kindergarten service to another during the year?** | If a child transfers to another funded kindergarten service, the original kindergarten service is required to advise:* The new kindergarten service that the child has received specialised equipment
* Yooralla so that arrangements can be made for the transfer of the specialised equipment to the new kindergarten service.
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| **Who maintains the specialised equipment?** | Yooralla is responsible for the maintenance of the specialised equipment. During the loan period, the kindergarten service is expected to keep the equipment in good condition and ensure that the equipment is used for its intended purposes and fit for use.  |
| **What happens when a child has outgrown the equipment or leaves the kindergarten service?** | The kindergarten service informs Yooralla who arranges for the return of the equipment. |
| **Can a kindergarten service request an appeal of eligibility decisions?** | Yes. A kindergarten service may request an appeal of decisions regarding eligibility. Appeals will be conducted only based on new or additional relevant information, which may not have been available or provided at the time of the application.  |
| **Where can appeals be lodged?** | Appeals can be lodged with the Department of Education and Training at: Kindergarten.Inclusion.Support@education.vic.gov.au with Appeal KIS SET Loan Request in the subject of the email. |
| **Who can I contact for more information?** | For more information contact Yooralla phone 5990 9672 or email KISSpecialistEquipment@yooralla.com.au |