

The Independent Support Needs Assessment (ISNA) Concept

As part of the introduction of the ITC Significant Disability placement type, FACS has introduced the Independent Support Needs Assessment (ISNA) concept which is not the same as any other assessment undertaken for children and young people in OOHC.

The ISNA will:

- Identify a child or young person's disability-related goals and support needs
- Determine recommended client grouping based on shared strengths and support needs of children and young people in individual ITC SD homes
- Clearly outline volume of supports to meet a child or young person's disability available through the Child Needs Package.
- Outline recommended strategies to transition to less intensive supports where applicable.
- The value of the Child Needs Package for each Child or Young Person will be determined by the FACS Contract Manager, taking advice from the ISNA.

The ISNA will be a desktop review of a range of information that is already available for the child and young person. Recommendations from the ISNA will support FACS in the application of the ITC Significant Disability Funding model, particularly to provide an independent view of the funding decisions to ensure that children and young people with significant disability are able to live their best possible life.

Implementation of the ISNA Concept

The ISNA is under development and will be implemented following testing of some key features of the assessment process. FACS will run a brief pilot using an independent consultant to provide initial advice on a child or young person's support needs, recommendations on client grouping for an ITC Significant Disability hub location and funding packages.

To support a well-planned transition for children and young people with significant disability, all service providers (including preferred and unsuccessful respondents to the ITC Significant Disability Tender) and independent assessors will be required to work collaboratively in conducting the ISNA. This may involve sharing information about the child or young person in your care to the assessor or FACS.

Information may include:

- clarification with the assessor about the child or young person's needs
- updated reports for the child or young person, if not already provided or available. For example, Formulation, Case Plan, Behaviour Support Plan, medical and allied health progress reports
- client's daily schedule which demonstrates staffing needs
- the house schedule which demonstrates rostering/staffing
- NDIS Plan
- other relevant information

New referrals to ITC Significant Disability

While the ISNA pilot is being undertaken new referrals for ITC Significant Disability will continue to be assessed through the current process. This includes:

- FACS CFDUs will 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 OOCHRecontracting@facs.nsw.gov.au.
- Each application form and supporting evidence will be reviewed to confirm eligibility for ITC Significant Disability. FACS Contract Managers and the Central Access Unit are then informed about the outcome of the application process.

Funding arrangements

During implementation of the ISNA there will be interim funding arrangements for the ITC Significant Disability Child Needs Packages. Further information about the interim funding arrangements will be provided in the coming weeks.

More information

If you have any questions about the ISNA please contact FACS OOHC Recontracting Team via OOHCRecontracting@facs.nsw.gov.au