

Early Childhood Intervention Services



In Victoria the early years of children's lives are recognised as a critical time to lay the foundations for later positive outcomes for both individuals and the wider community. Victoria is committed to ensuring that all families, including those with a child with a developmental delay or disability, have access in their local communities to high quality services that are responsive to their needs.

Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) are provided for families with children with a disability or developmental delay who have not yet started school and who have support needs in addition to those that can be addressed through universal services. ECIS are funded by the Department of Human Services and are provided by approximately 60 community service organisations (CSOs) and eight department-managed Specialist Children's Services (SCS) teams throughout the state. The Department of Education and Training also funds ECIS for hearing impaired children.

ECIS provide individual and group programs for families as well as helping them to access services such as kindergarten and child care. They also contribute to community development and service planning and coordination. The overall aim of these services is to provide parents and families with knowledge, skills and support that will help them to meet their child's needs. This will give the child the best conditions in which to develop and participate in family and community life. The delivery of services is based on principles of family-centred practice and building parents' capacities.

Early Childhood Intervention Services are:

- family-centred
- focused on empowering families
- delivered by staff with knowledge and skills to engage and work with families and the community to address the needs of children with a disability or developmental delay
- supportive of the inclusion of all children in their own communities.

ECIS are part of a comprehensive range of child and family universal and specialist services funded through the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments. These include community health, family and parenting support, maternal and child health, kindergarten and child care.

For more information about the Department of Human Services ECIS in Victoria go to: www.ecis.vic.gov.au and www.auroraschool.vic.edu.au for the Department of Education and Training's ECIS.



Early Childhood Intervention Services for children with a hearing loss

- Aurora School Early Intervention
- Early Education Program for Hearing Impaired Children
- Taralye
- Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children
- Parent Advisers

Parent information

- Deaf Children Australia
- Victorian Deaf
- Parents of Hearing Impaired Children