The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is committed to ensuring that all Victorian children can participate in high quality early childhood services, and providing extra support and early intervention where needed.

The Professional Support Scheme aims to support professionals new to early childhood intervention to develop the knowledge and skills to work effectively in the field. Services are able to apply for up to $6000 per eligible staff member. This funding is to assist the new professional over two years to access professional support activities associated with their individual goals for professional learning.

Who can apply for the scheme?
Applications are invited from early childhood intervention services that have employed a professional in the last two years who has not previously worked in early childhood intervention.

Services must:
- be funded by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to deliver early childhood intervention services.*

New professionals must:
- be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia;
- have been employed in a funded early childhood intervention service for less than two years.

*Early Education Programs based in schools are not eligible to apply.

Application Process
Services will be required to complete an application form designed to determine eligibility of the service and the new professional.

In addition, in consultation with the staff member, services will be required to provide a professional learning plan outlining professional learning goals for a two year period.

Services will be asked to identify the links between the professional learning plan and the Early Childhood Intervention Practitioner Competencies. A link to the competencies is available at [www.education.vic.gov.au/careers/earlychildhood](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/careers/earlychildhood). Services are able to nominate the amount of funding sought (up to $6000).

What will happen if my application is successful?
Successful applicants will be required to submit proposed professional learning activities on a six monthly basis for two years or until the funding has been expended, whichever comes first. Proposed learning activities must align with the goals for professional learning outlined in the application and should include cost. The Department reserves the right to refuse the use of the Professional Support Scheme funding for professional learning activities that are not considered to support the new professional in their work in early childhood intervention and/or do not align with the submitted professional learning goals.

How to apply

Complete the application form attaching the relevant paperwork and return to the address shown on the form or via email to early.years.workforce@edumail.vic.gov.au

Contact us

email early.years.workforce@edumail.vic.gov.au

or telephone 1300 651 662