

QUICK GUIDE

Referral & Transition Pathways

In Home Care is an approved child care service type and is intended to help parents and carers who want to work, or who want to work more, to make early childhood education more affordable and accessible.

Families unable to access Centre-based Day Care (CBDC), Family Day Care (FDC) and Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) because of their unique circumstances, may be able to access education and care provided in the family home through the **In Home Care (IHC) Program** to support their workforce participation.

The IHC Program is not a permanent solution and the **IHC Support Agency (IHCSA)** will provide **Referral Pathways** to families that are no longer eligible, to transition out of IHC to other approved child care services, when and where appropriate.

This process is usually considered when one of the following situations arise:

- Family circumstances change, meaning the IHC eligibility criteria is no longer met
- A family decides to leave (transition) out of In Home Care
- A family becomes uncontactable, or is unable to supply ongoing evidence of eligibility

When it becomes clear that transition is the next logical step, the Support Agency will:

- Discuss the Referral Pathway and agree on a reasonable time period
- Support families to transition to other approved child care services, where appropriate, ensuring the family has a plan for post-IHC, and is not left without options
- Consider options such as IHC in combination with the other approved child care service types

How is a Referral Pathway initiated?

A referral pathway will be initiated upon a change in the family's circumstances, deeming them ineligible due to no longer meeting the In Home Care eligibility criteria.

As per IHC National Guideline 1.5, two of the key principles of the IHC Support Agency are:

- Support families to transition to other approved child care services where appropriate
- Establishing Referral Pathways to and from the IHC program

What does a Referral Pathway look like?

If a family's eligibility status changes at any stage of the IHC journey, the IHC Support Agency will advise the family and supply information and contacts for other Support Services where assistance can be sought to support the children in their education and care needs.

When a Referral Pathway has been identified and, after discussions between the Family, IHC Service Provider and IHC Support Agency, a transition plan - possibly including a tapering reduction of IHC hours or days - will be implemented and a transition end date advised to all stakeholders.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[In Home Care National Guidelines](#)

[In Home Care Handbook](#)