

## 1.2 Will You Need Help Navigating The Education System For Your Young Child?

### What does an Early Childhood Intervention Service provide?

Early Childhood Intervention Services are provided to young children who have a significant disability (from 0 to school age). They help your child and family with skills and supports to participate in family and community life.

Contact the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to get further information. If you live in the Western suburbs call 9275 7500 and if you live in the Northern suburbs call 94790121.

If your child attends an early childhood intervention centre then qualified staff can help you with the transition from there into primary school. They will be able to work with the school to ensure that your child's needs are understood.

If your child does not receive an Early Childhood Intervention Service contact your local council and ask to speak to the Pre-school Field Officer who will be able to assist the kindergarten with your child's special needs. You may want to refer to information sheet 4.7 of this kit 'How do I contact my local Council'.

### Are you unsure of which school to choose?

Your child may attend a Government or Non-Government school. They may also be eligible for a special school or a special developmental school.

There may be a number of different options for you in the area where you live, although choice of special or special developmental school depends on an assessment. You are able to check the school's suitability before enrolling your child. Call the principal of the school to arrange a time to visit. It can be useful to write down a list of questions that you want to ask the school. These may include:

#### **What does this school offer that others don't?**

#### **How big are the class sizes?**

#### **How accessible are the facilities?**

#### **How will the staff attend to your son's/daughter's particular needs?**

#### **What therapy supports are available?**

#### **Are you in the school bus zone\*\*?**

(\*\*for Special and Special Development Schools)

For additional information, support and advice on selecting a school for your child contact the Association for Children with a Disability on 9818 2000.

### Will you be applying for the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD)?

Some children who have a disability will be eligible to receive funding through their school for the Program for Students with Disabilities. However you will need to approach the school at least 6 months or more before enrolment to make an application.

If you are eligible, the amount of money your school will receive will vary. Currently, public schools receive substantially more funding than private schools, but private schools may have in-school aids and supports that you can access.

### Is there any help available to transport your child to school?

If your child goes to a special school or a special developmental school they may be eligible for transport support. You have to be living in the designated transport area for that school to receive this assistance. For more information talk to the principal of the school your child attends.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development provides a Conveyance Allowance for students who use a wheelchair and need to take a taxi to their nearest school. Call 9637 3111 for more information.