



## Bilingual & Bicultural Support for Supported Playgroups

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For Playgroups who have received the Department of Education and Training one off funding to include Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) families in Supported Playgroups, the following services offerings from FKA Children's Services (*fkaCS*) are available to assist in delivering outcomes.

### Bilingual Support

*fkaCS* have a "pool" of Bilingual Workers in a range of locations across Victoria speaking languages other than English that are common to the locality.

Bilingual Workers can assist Playgroup Facilitators who do not have a shared language with the family/ies attending the service to communicate and engage in the playgroup.

FKA Bilingual Workers are not required to hold early childhood qualifications and work under the direction of the Playgroup Facilitator with support from *fkaCS* Consultants in order to:

- Facilitate communication by providing a conduit to a shared language.
- Support communication between the family and facilitator in order to progress the development of a trusting relationship and a sense of wellbeing and belonging to the playgroup
- facilitate cultural understanding by enabling the exchange and sharing of information between facilitators and families about family life and providing facilitators with an understanding of relevant cultural issues

Note: It is important that Bilingual Workers do not simply provide information regarding their culture based on their own experience or cultural norms/assumptions as these may not be shared by the family.

FKA Bilingual Workers are supported in their role by *fkaCS* through:

- A comprehensive induction process to ensure an understanding of the Australian early childhood context including the Child Safe Standards.
- Phone support and advice
- Obtaining a Working With Children Check (WWCC)
- Professional Learning opportunities

### Bicultural Support

Bicultural Support is provided by *fkaCS* Consultants whose role is to increase educator's capacity in the provision of culturally competent pedagogy and the ability to engage meaningfully with children and families for whom there is no shared language.

*fkaCS* Consultants can support Playgroup Facilitators through:

- Cultural Competency training and support using the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF) as a basis to explore what this looks like in practice.
- Training, advice and support regarding language/literacy development for children with English as an additional language, including the importance of maintaining the home language.

For further information and enquiry, please contact *fkaCS* on:

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