

Participation in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

What is the NDIS?

The NDIS is an insurance scheme that assists people with disability access mainstream and community supports, and funds reasonable and necessary supports, **including early intervention**, for its participants. A participant is a person with a permanent disability or, under early intervention requirements, has a developmental delay which has a substantial impact on a person's daily life. This can include people with mental health conditions.

The Scheme will enable NDIS participants to exercise choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and the planning and delivery of their supports. The Scheme will help participants to increase their independence and social and economic participation.

The NDIS is also reassurance for the broader Australian community that there is a support system in place for people who acquire a permanent disability.

How do you access the scheme in the ACT?

The NDIS is being trialled in a few locations around Australia in preparation for national rollout beginning in 2016. The ACT trial commenced on 1 July 2014. The ACT will be the first jurisdiction in Australia to have all eligible residents included in the Scheme by July 2016. People living in the ACT can access the ACT trial of the NDIS.

Who is eligible?

To participate in the NDIS, you need to meet disability or early intervention requirements, as well as age and residence requirements.

You need to:

- ✓ have a permanent disability which results in substantially reduced ability to undertake regular daily activities **or** to meet the early intervention requirements
- ✓ live in a trial site area (during the trial)
- ✓ be aged less than 65 years when you make an access request
- ✓ be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen who holds a Protected Special Category Visa.

More information about the Scheme's access requirements is on the NDIS website (ndis.gov.au), including the My Access Checker tool (ndis.gov.au/my-access-checker).

Anyone with or affected by disability, including families and carers, can contact the NDIA for information and referrals on 1800 800 110 or visit one of the NDIA offices in Canberra:

- 212 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon
- Gateway Services, Nature Conservation House, Belconnen

To confirm eligibility, the NDIA will ask you to complete an access request form. They will consider the information in your request and make a decision about your access. In some



instances, you may need to be linked to a service, or to a broad community support rather than receiving individualised support through the NDIS. If your needs change, you can talk to the NDIA again about accessing other supports.

How do I or my child participate in the NDIS?

Once your eligibility has been confirmed you will be connected to a planner who will help you to develop an individual support plan that can include mainstream, community, informal and reasonable and necessary funded supports such as:

- one-off supports, for example equipment
- personal support for daily living
- early intervention services
- local area coordination
- supports to achieve greater independence and community participation.

The following options will be available to participants to manage the funding for supports:

- Self-managed
- Registered plan management provider
- NDIA managed
- A combination of the above.

The NDIA has developed some resources to explain the planning process and help you prepare for your meeting. These resources are available on the NDIA website by clicking on this link: <http://www.ndis.gov.au/planning-process>

When will my planning conversation take place?

People will gradually transition into the scheme over two years. The phasing timetable has been agreed by the Federal and ACT governments and is summarised below.

Children

Children will transition to the NDIS according to their academic year, or age if they are not yet at school.

- **Young children** are a priority, as early intervention is important.
 - Children under 2 will transition between July and September 2014.
 - 2 – 4 year olds who **are not** starting school in 2015 will transition between October and December 2014.
- **School age children** will transition during the 2015 school year.
 - High school students (7-12) will transition between January and March 2015. Those in years 11 and 12 will go first.
 - Children in primary school (K-6) will transition between April and September 2015. Transition will be from youngest to oldest.
- **School leavers** are going through a transition period in their lives, so we want to move them into the NDIS quickly.



- 2008 – 2013 school leavers who received a Post School Options package and who have high and complex needs will transition between July and September 2014.
- 2014 school leavers will transition between September and December 2014, as they finish up school.

Adults

Older Canberrans will have access to the NDIS first to ensure they do not miss the cut-off age of 65. Adults will then transition oldest to youngest.

- 64 year olds will be able to begin their transition between July and September 2014.
- 63 year olds will transition to the NDIS between October and December 2014.
- 60 – 62 year olds will transition to the NDIS between January and March 2015.
- 59 year olds will transition to the NDIS between April and June 2015.
- 56 – 58 year olds will transition to the NDIS between July and September 2015.
- 49 – 55 year olds will transition to the NDIS between October and December 2015.
- 40 – 48 year olds will transition to the NDIS between January and March 2016.
- From April 2016, adults between the ages of 20 – 39 will be able to start their transition to the NDIS.

Group homes will transition together so that each household can be assessed at the same time. The youngest person in the household will determine at what stage the household is transitioned to the NDIS.

Where can I find further information?

Further information about the NDIS and early intervention services is available from the following sources:

- NDIA website - <http://www.ndis.gov.au/>
- Education and Training Website - <http://www.det.act.gov.au/the-national-disability-insurance-scheme-and-early-childhood-invention-programs-in-the-act#moreinformation>
- ACT Government information line on [\(02\) 6207 1086](tel:0262071086)
- Community Services Directorate website – <http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/home>
 - NDIS Update:
http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/disability_act/national_disability_insurance_scheme/ndis-update
 - ACT NDIS Taskforce:
http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/disability_act/national_disability_insurance_scheme