

# FACT SHEET - NDIS

## OVERVIEW

The National Disability Insurance Scheme NDIS is currently being trialled over a number of sites across Australia.

The South Australian three-year trial from July 2013 to June 2016 is for children with a disability from birth to 14 years.

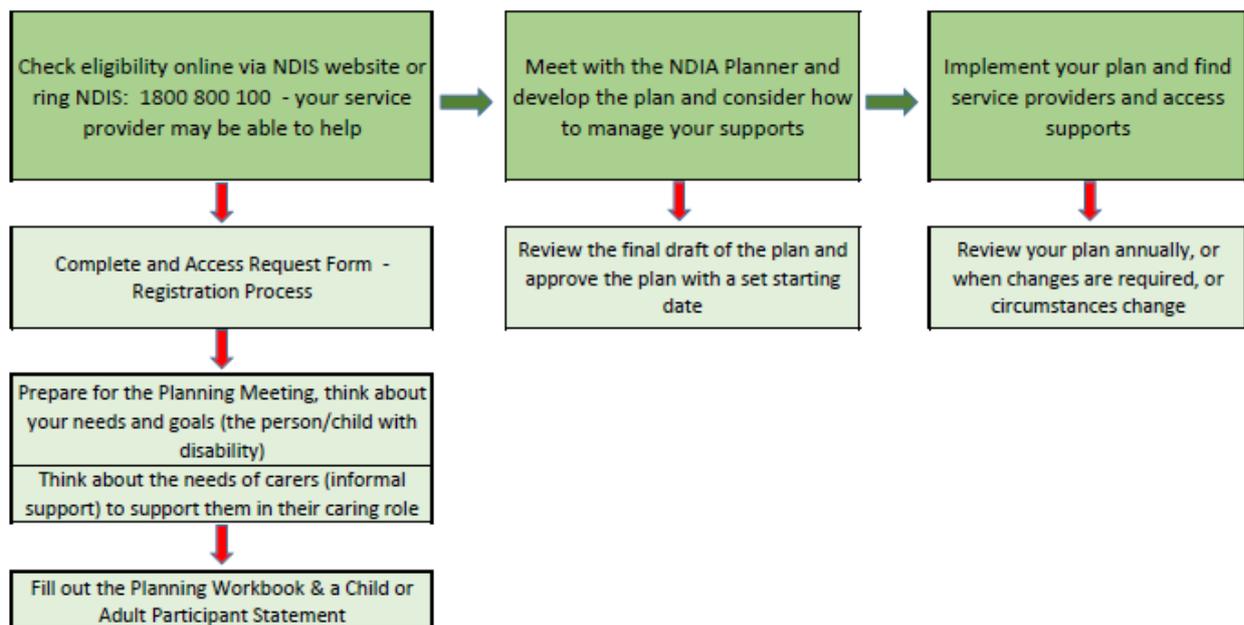
This timeframe has been extended by a further 12 months due to the number of children entering the Scheme. From January 2017 young people from 15 – 17 years will begin to access the NDIS. From July 2017 the NDIS will be made available progressively to all eligible people with disability across the state. For information about the rollout across SA and timeframes, please go to the NDIS website:

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/sa>

By July 2018, it is estimated that around 32,000 people will access the NDIS, including around 17,000 people from the existing South Australian specialist disability system.

There are a number of steps a person needs to go through to receive support through the NDIS. Family carers are the main supporters for children with disability. Many adults with disability may choose to have a family carer/member/friend to support them through the NDIS processes.

Here is a general process outline:



For a person to access supports through the NDIS they must:

- Have a significant or permanent disability, or a need for early intervention;
- Live in an area where the NDIS has already begun (an NDIS trial site) and meet any relevant age requirements for that area;
- Be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident, or a protected Special Category Visa holder; and
- Be under the age of 65.

For information and support in negotiating through the process please contact the NDIS – via

Web: [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au) call centre: 1800 800 110 videos: <https://www.youtube.com/user/DisabilityCare>

There are now also other services who can provide assistance preparing for and developing NDIS plans.

Advice for family carers call Carers SA: **1800 242 636** or visit: [www.carers-sa.asn.au](http://www.carers-sa.asn.au) and check out:

**Carers in the NDIS Guide** - <http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/ndis-and-carers/carers-in-the-ndis>

# Things to know about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) today – June 2016.

Our Advisory Service team 1800 242 636 is providing core information to carers in line with the information provided in this fact sheet.

## What is the NDIS?

A new way of providing funding to all people with disability who meet the eligibility criteria. The age for entering the NDIS is from birth to 65 years. People who are older than 65 years will have to access aged care services although those who are part of the NDIS before their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday will be able to continue to receive funding through the NDIS or transfer to the aged care system.

The main funding before the NDIS went directly to service providers in the form of a 'block grant' rather than to an individual. This meant that if a person with disability who used that service wanted to change services they were generally not guaranteed that any funding would be transferred to the new service - that is your funding was lost.

Under the NDIS the funding is given to the person rather than to the service provider. This allows the individual, with support from their family, to have greater choice and control over who, what, where and how services and support is provided.

The NDIS is still in its trial phase but once it is fully rolled out by 2019 – 20 you will be able to move across Australia and take your funding with you. You will not be limited to remaining in one place but have the same freedom as all other Australians to move around the country if and when your circumstances change.

## How is the NDIS working now and how will it work once it is fully rolled out

Due to the extensive changes that the NDIS would bring it was decided to trial the NDIS for a three-year period from July 2013 to June 2016. The South Australian trial was for children from birth to 14 years of age.

Because of the larger than expected numbers of children entering the NDIS the trial period has been extended to December 2016. From February 2017, 15 to 17 year old young people will begin to access the NDIS followed by those over 18 years of age from July 2017. For the Limestone Coast region this will commence from October 2017.

Eventually the NDIS will provide ongoing financial support to around 460,000 Australians with significant and permanent disability.

It will do this by:

- Providing information and referral services to all Australians with any level of disability to access mainstream, community and where necessary specialist disability support services

and

- Providing financial support packages including funding for early intervention therapy (physio, speech, O/T) and/or equipment. A NDIS plan sets out your goals, what you want to achieve and who or what service is required to help you achieve these.

NDIS funding continues over a person's lifetime and is reviewed each year to see what has happened over the past 12 months, whether the previous goals have been met, if they need to change or new ones made. You can ask for a review of your plan at any time during the year if things change or your plan needs to be adjusted or added to.

You can choose to self-manage your NDIS funds. You will need to have a separate bank account so money can be transferred there or you can choose to have the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to manage the funding for you.

You can get more information about this on <http://www.ndis.gov.au/participant/self-managing-budgets>

## What can I buy with my NDIS funding?

The NDIS funding is for all that is *'reasonable and necessary'*.

This means things that help you:

- Achieve what you want to do in your life and develop skills to help you achieve these
- Become as independent as possible
- Participate in the community
- Work and get paid for the work you do

**Common things that are funded are:**

- Equipment such as wheelchairs and other mobility aids
- House and vehicle modifications
- Continence aids including nappies
- Home and community support
- Personal care
- Respite
- Domestic assistance

**What will not be funded by the NDIS**

- Things that may be harmful or pose a threat to others
- Not related to your disability
- Supports that are funded from other sources
- Usual living expenses incurred by the general community and are not related to your disability, e.g. rent, groceries, household bills
- Health and medical costs covered by Medicare
- Educational costs

**What needs to happen for me to get a NDIS plan?**

**Step 1: Find out if your family member/child with disability is eligible.**

- Using the NDIS website's – NDIS Access Checklist link <http://www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-access-checklist>  
You may already be receiving some disability services and/or be registered with Disability SA. However, you still need to go through the NDIS registration process.
- Calling the NDIA on 1800 800 110 and asking for help
- If you are already receiving some support from a service provider asking them to help you

A great deal of work is required at this stage to collect information and reports about your family member's / child's disability. It can be a complicated process and many people have found getting support from others, including those who have already gone through the process helpful. Many families have asked why their family member/child with disability requires further assessment even if they have already been assessed as having a permanent disability. The answer is unfortunately yes, but once this stage has been approved you do not have to go through this process again. Once your family member's/child's eligibility has been approved the next step is getting ready to meet with a NDIA planner.

**Step 2: Getting ready to meet with a NDIA Planner.**

The preparation for this meeting is perhaps one of the most important parts of the whole process. The NDIS has a [Getting Plan Ready \(http://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/getting-plan-ready\)](http://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/getting-plan-ready) workbook which can help you with preparing for the meeting with the plan.

Think about:

- What support is provided each day by you as the carer and by others

- Who provides that support and can they continue to provide that support
- What ongoing support will be required within the next 12 months to support the person's growth and personal goals
- Where appropriate, prepare a Carer Statement (see below)

Getting help from family, carers, service providers (if they are in your life) can be very helpful. For children their family carers may also find it useful to talk with other people who know or connect with your child in some way to help you prepare for the planning meeting. Some families have also asked for help from other families who have already gone through the process.

### **Carer statement<sup>1</sup>**

During the planning process the NDIA will speak with carers to ensure their circumstances and ability to continue their caring role is considered in relation to the participant's support needs. This information will be recorded on the participant's record so that this can be revisited at review of the plan. The carer may request to have this conversation without the participant and, if appropriate, the NDIA will facilitate this. Carers can also choose to prepare a written Carer Statement and bring this to the planning meeting or submit it to the NDIA, though this is not compulsory.

A **Carer Statement** (in written or verbal form) may include:

- How the caring role affects the carer,
- Whether the carer is able and willing to keep caring the same way into the future and the impact, if any, that this has on the carer's goals
- Other informal supports such as family or friends
- Any other information that would be important for the planner to know.

It is important for carers to talk about their ability to care and to sustain this care in a written statement or at the **planning meetings** as it helps the planner determine the NDIS supports for the participant and whether the carer needs help in their role. Also see the NDIS website regarding informal (carer) support sustainability guidelines: <http://www.ndis.gov.au/operational-guideline-planning-and-ass-6>

### **Step 3: Attend the NDIS planning meeting**

You will be contacted by a NDIS planner and a meeting time will be arranged. You may choose to have somebody support you at the meeting and you can take notes during the meeting.

Family carers who are supporting children or family members with significant intellectual and/or communication difficulties may take the lead role in speaking on behalf of and for the person with disability.

Parents of children and young people with disability under 18 years of age are their legal guardians and therefore can be the main information provider to the planner. Family carers of people over 18 years who have a Guardianship order have the same rights. Finding out how family carers' rights if they do not have such an order is explained in the [What are Nominees and Guardians under the NDIS](http://www.ndis.gov.au/families-carers/what-are-nominees-and-guardians) fact sheet available at: <http://www.ndis.gov.au/families-carers/what-are-nominees-and-guardians>. Carers/parents may be able to continue to make day to day care decisions on behalf of the person they care without a formal guardianship order.

NDIA planners are there to help and support you and/or your family member to develop a plan that meets their needs. The NDIS is about choice and control over the NDIS plan content. If you feel that the NDIA planner is not supportive or understanding, then you can request to have another planner.

It may take several attempts before a final plan is completed.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/ndis-and-carers/how-to-prepare>

#### **Step 4: Financial Plan Management**

Once the plan is completed and you have agreed to it you have three choices as to how the plan is managed.

You can choose to:

1. Self-manage the plan including the financial and administrative aspects
2. Have a plan management provider to take on the role of financial and administrative aspects of your plan. This includes paying invoices, developing service agreements and assisting with hiring of staff. The NDIS provides additional funding for the plan manager
3. Have the NDIA take on the role of financial and administrative tasks including all payments to any NDIS registered service provider chosen by you

**Note:** Option 1 gives you greater flexibility in choosing service providers but requires a significant amount of documentation and recording keeping.

#### **What happens to any existing funding you may have before the NDIS – will it transfer across to your NDIS plan?**

All governments have said that people will not be disadvantaged when they move across to the NDIS. However, the NDIA has said that this does not mean that the same level of funding or support will be exactly the same as before.

More information about this can be found on [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au) fact sheet Principle of no disadvantage which is available via: <http://www.ndis.gov.au/document/what-principle-no-disadvantag>

#### **Additional bits and pieces**

The federal government has said that the NDIS is here to stay. A few facts as we know them today

- Yearly cost of the NDIS once it is fully operational from 2019 – 2020 is just over \$22 billion
- The federal government will contribute about \$11.7 billion (53%) which will be collected via a 0.5% increase to the Medicare levy which began in July 2014 and which is expected to raise \$20.4 billion by 2018 – 2019.
- State and territories will contribute the remainder
- All the money will be transferred to a NDIS Fund for 10 years and can only be used to fund additional costs of delivering the NDIS
- The Disability Support Pension will not be affected by the NDIS
- Carer Payment, Carer Supplement, Carer Allowance and Child Disability Assistance Payment are entirely separate from the NDIS
- There is no income or asset testing for NDIS funding

# NDIS Glossary

<b>Capacity building</b>	Improving someone's or something's ability to carry out an activity or function.
<b>Carer statement</b>	A statement written on a participant's plan about the carer's role and their ability to continue to provide this care. Carers can provide their own spoken or written statement to the planner that explains their role and any supports they may need to continue in their role.
<b>Early intervention</b>	Providing supports to a person with disability early on to reduce the amount of support they may need in the future.
<b>Guardian</b>	Someone (e.g. a carer or family member) who has the responsibility to make decisions for a person who is not able to make their own decisions.
<b>Individual support plan</b>	A document that lists a participant's goals, what services and supports they already receive and what funded supports they can receive through the NDIS.
<b>Informal supports</b>	Any unpaid support that is provided by a family or friend carer and not a paid service provider or formal volunteer.
<b>Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)</b>	Aims to build the capacity of the community, people with disability and their families and carers. This part of the NDIS is still being developed.
<b>Local Area Coordinators (LACs)</b>	NDIA staff link people with disability to the NDIS and service providers, and build the capacity of individuals, carers and the community to support people with disability.
<b>Mainstream services</b>	Services that provide support to a range of people and not just people with disability, such as education, income support, public housing, employment, public transport, or health services.
<b>NDIS Access Checklist</b>	A checklist to help people find out whether they can join the NDIS.
<b>Nominee</b>	A person who can act or make decisions on behalf of a participant.
<b>Operational Guidelines</b>	Guidelines that are designed to assist the NDIA in making decisions and performing functions.
<b>Participant</b>	A person (0-65) with disability who has an individual support plan and their supports paid for by the NDIS.
<b>Peer Mentoring or Peer Support</b>	Where a person with a lived experience helps a person new to that experience.
<b>Planner</b>	A person who works for the NDIA and whose job it is to help participants put together their individual support plans.
<b>Planning meeting</b>	A conversation where a planner, a participant and any other person supporting the participant work together to develop an individual support plan for the participant.
<b>Price Guide</b>	A list of supports developed by the NDIA that contains the maximum prices service providers can charge for particular supports. Each state and territory have a different Price Guide.
<b>Reasonable and necessary supports</b>	Supports that are related to the participant's disability, are likely to help the participant and take into account informal supports provided by families, carers and the community. 'Reasonable' means something that is fair, and 'necessary' means something you must have.
<b>Regional Support Officers</b>	NDIA staff who help participants to access local supports after they have received an individual support plan through the NDIS.
<b>Respite</b>	Short break from the caring role that can include in-home respite, day care and residential respite.
<b>Significant, permanent disability</b>	A disability that a person will have for the rest of their life and that makes it difficult for the person to do everyday things without assistance. This includes some kinds of mental illness.