National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Scheme overview and implementation update

National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)
The NDIS is the new way of delivering disability support

- Supports tailored to individual needs
- Insurance approach for sustainable costs
- Choice and control is central
- Needs driven
- Delivered in local communities
- National coverage
Background to the NDIS trial

2008: Government's 2020 summit proposes a national disability scheme

July 2011: Productivity Commission submits report to government

December 2012: Council of Australian Governments sign an intergovernmental agreement to trial the Scheme

April 2013: Bilateral agreements with trial sites signed
  August - WA

2010: Productivity Commission conducts enquiry into long term disability care

October 2011: Council of Australian Governments agree to the need for reform – joint taskforce develops Scheme design

March 2013: NDIS Act 2013 establishing the NDIS and NDIA passed

Heads of Agreement are now in place for full Scheme in NSW, SA, ACT, Tas, Vic, and Qld
Scheme principles

• People with disability have the same right as other members of the community to realise their potential

• People with disability, their families and carers should have certainty that they will receive the care and support they need

• People with disability should be supported to exercise choice in the pursuit of their goals and the planning and delivery of their supports

• The role of families and carers in the lives of people with disability is to be acknowledged and respected
Three key pillars underpin NDIS design

- Insurance approach
- Choice and Control
- Community and Mainstream
A scheme based on insurance principles

- The risk of disability affects all Australians. Disability affecting an individual, partner, child or other family member may result in costs that are too much for any individual or family to bear.
- The NDIS is a way of pooling these risks.
- Each year, all Australians pay a premium (collectively) that is enough to cover the annual costs of the care and support needs of participants and the costs of running the scheme.
- We are all at risk of being affected by disability, we all share the risk and the cost of disability, we are all covered if and when we need it.
Since 1 July 2013, the NDIS trial has been operating in:

- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Hunter region, New South Wales
- Barwon region, Victoria

On 1 July 2014, the NDIS trial commenced in:

- Australia Capital Territory
- Barkly region, Northern Territory
- Perth Hills region, Western Australia (a two year pilot)
# How things are changing under the NDIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Former system</th>
<th>NDIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access criteria</td>
<td>Vary from state to state</td>
<td>Nationally consistent as set out in legislation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choice and control</td>
<td>Varies from state to state - most people have little say over the supports they receive</td>
<td>Individual has control over the type and mix of supports, delivery and how their funding is managed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level of assistance</td>
<td>Capped – people may be eligible but can spend years on waiting lists</td>
<td>Demand driven – people with disability get the support they need, when they need it, to make progress towards goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Multiple programs within and across governments</td>
<td>Single pool of government funding administered by NDIA</td>
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Accessing the Scheme

- People with disability who meet the access requirements will become participants in the Scheme

- NDIS has a wide gateway to introduce people to the Scheme through multiple channels and touch points

- People in trial site areas can use My Access Checker to get an indication about whether they can access the Scheme

- Gradual intake of participants into the scheme
Disability requirements

To access assistance from the Scheme a person must:

- Have permanent disability

- The disability has significant impact on everyday life and on the person’s ability to participate in the community

- The person will need ongoing supports
Early intervention requirements

You may meet the early intervention requirements if:

• You have a permanent impairment

And

• There is evidence that receiving supports now (early interventions) will help:

  o Reduce the level of help you need to do things now and in the future or

  o Help your family and carer to keep helping you
Each participant will have an individual plan and funding for supports

My Plan

Individual goals

Other supports (provided by other systems, family and friends)

NDIS funded supports
Management of funding for supports to be resolved with participant

• The type of funds management that a participant chooses can vary depending on their circumstances

• Different options can be chosen for different supports

• Plans may have a combination of the options as shown

• NDIA can limit self management where financial or personal risk
Percentage of approved plans

Percentage of approved plans, split by primary disability
## Participants – primary disability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1.1.(b) Information about participants, split by primary disability</th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>TAS</th>
<th>VIC</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autism and Related Disorders</td>
<td>21% (474)</td>
<td>33% (453)</td>
<td>30% (239)</td>
<td>24% (708)</td>
<td>26% (1874)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Down Syndrome</td>
<td>6% (128)</td>
<td>4% (58)</td>
<td>8% (59)</td>
<td>5% (148)</td>
<td>5% (393)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual Disability</td>
<td>22% (489)</td>
<td>0% (4)</td>
<td>33% (260)</td>
<td>24% (706)</td>
<td>20% (1459)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Intellectual/learning</td>
<td>5% (120)</td>
<td>7% (91)</td>
<td>6% (48)</td>
<td>3% (99)</td>
<td>5% (358)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

December 14
Zoe is an 8-year-old girl and has Down Syndrome. As part of Zoe’s plan, she wanted to be connected to some mainstream activities to help her increase her socialisation skills and make new friends.

After researching suitable activities, seven activities were identified as possibilities and included sporting groups, music classes, art classes and swim lessons.

Zoe took up an exercise class as it would help with balance, motor skills and overall wellness.

Zoe’s participation in the sporting group was a resounding success. She is fully participating and has become more confident with the activity. Zoe’s mum has become more confident as a result of these early successes, and she can make contact with the NDIA if any help is needed.
The impact of the NDIS on participants

- Sarah is 20. Her social contacts are very limited. The possibility within the plan for having assistance to connect to people and try new things was warmly welcomed by her Mum. Sarah was more cautious and asked “Was this about bringing her out of her bubble?” She understood her own reluctance to move from her comfort zone but was willing as long as “its not people with special needs” said Sarah. The other exciting prospect is a part time job working with children.

- Feedback from Sarah’s Mum - “I'm very happy with the way you have heard Sarah’s heart on what she is hoping to achieve. Having this in place to help us look forward to her expanding her life and independence is exactly what she needed right now. Please go ahead with this (draft Plan), we will also meet with the lady from TAFE in regards to what ways they could help with that, not sure it will be enough for Sarah’s needs but it won't hurt to meet and talk.”
The impact of the NDIS on participants

- Jane is a woman in her forties with Downs syndrome, she has a very supportive family network that has promoted Jane’s independence as they have seen best. Jane lives with her parents (in her own wing in the house), attends a local ADE, has a support worker to assist with some ADL’s and socialises in a program specific for people with a disability.

- During the planning conversation Jane’s families ideas were to keep current services as they felt Jane’s independence had been maximised. In the future her sister would move into the family home to ‘take care of Jane’ when the mother was no longer able to provide support.

- During the planning conversations with encouragement from the PSC/Planner it emerged that Jane had her own thoughts about what was most important for her in terms of relationships, sharing her home, recreational interests and a desire cook.

- The opportunity to hear “Jane’s voice” was critical. Her family are now looking differently at ways to build independence and friendships, including enrolling Jane in main stream cooking, swimming and computing courses; exploring additional support to assist Jane to increase her independence at home and travelling in the community. The family have also commenced discussions about Jane’s living arrangements and how this may look in the future (i.e. a housemate of Jane’s choosing).
The impact of the NDIS on participants

- Tom is 15 and lives with his family however his options for social activities now and choices for what he does after he leaves school are severely limited because he is not independent in toileting. Our experienced Senior Planner is confident that with specific and intensive training this is an achievable goal.
- Tom’s family are under pressure in the mornings to do everything that needs to be done.
- The Plan has provision for intensive toilet training and for skills development during the morning routine (2hrs x 5 times per week) with the dual goals of increasing his skills and reducing considerable family pressure.
- The family now has a feeling of hope that previously was not there.
The NDIS is built to last

As we prepare recommendations for governments on the optimal transition to full scheme, the NDIA will:

• Continue engagement with people with disability, their families and carers, providers and the community

• Build the capacity of Agency to respond to increase in participants

• Evaluate feedback about the Scheme

• Learn from new and existing trial sites
To be successful the NDIA must

• Keep the three pillars in balance

• Ensure the Scheme is sustainable
  o within the funding envelope

• Ensure the delivery of the Scheme is both efficient and effective
  o deliver on time within the costs agreed with Government

• Improve outcomes for people with a disability
  o tell the story about those improvements
Questions?

Visit: www.ndis.gov.au

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