

## Queensland early transition to the NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will be available in Townsville, Charters Towers and Palm Island from January 2016

### What is the NDIS?

The NDIS is a new way of providing individualised support for people with an impairment or condition that is likely to be permanent, or a developmental delay that affects their ability to take part in everyday activities. The NDIS is being implemented by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

The NDIS is being introduced in stages, because it's a big change and it is important to get it right and make it sustainable.

### How does the NDIS work?

The NDIS takes a flexible, whole-of-life approach to working with participants, their families and carers, to develop individualised plans. The NDIS provides participants with more choice and control over how, when and where their supports are provided. It also provides certainty that they will receive the support they need over their lifetime.

The NDIS works to connect participants with community and mainstream supports. The NDIS also funds the additional reasonable and necessary supports to help participants pursue their goals and aspirations, and participate in daily life.

Helping people to build their social and economic participation requires the NDIS to work closely with community organisations to identify opportunities for people with disability.

In Queensland, there are many well-established community organisations who will be important in helping people with disability prepare for the NDIS.

They will also play a vital role in assisting people with disability to achieve their goals.

### Early transition to the NDIS in Queensland

The early transition sites cover the Local Government Areas of Townsville City, Charters Towers Regional Council and Palm Island Aboriginal Shire.

Around 1600 people are expected to be eligible for the NDIS in the early transition sites, with up to 600 of these people expected to receive their funded packages by 1 July 2016.

The remaining 1000 eligible people from the early transition sites will receive their funded packages from July 2016.

### How will the early transition work?

From January 2016, the NDIS will be made available to eligible children and young people under 18 years of age living in the areas of Townsville and Charters Towers. All eligible people residing on Palm Island aged under 65 years of age will also begin to be covered by the NDIS.

Initially in Townsville and Charters Towers the NDIS will support children, young people, their families and carers through community engagement forums, building links with mainstream and community supports and, for some people, assistance with access and planning.

Existing Commonwealth and state-based services and supports will continue until eligible people start their plan with the NDIS.

### Who can access the NDIS?

Children and young people under 18 years of age living in the Local Government Areas of Townsville City and Charters Towers Regional Council.

People aged under 65 living in the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Local Government Area.

To access the NDIS people must:

- live in a district where the NDIS is available;
- meet the age and residency requirements; and
- meet either the disability or early intervention requirements.

The **access checklist** on the NDIS website provides more information on access requirements.

### What can I do to prepare?

Participants in the NDIS early transition in Queensland will be contacted from early 2016.

Before then, you can prepare by:

- **Thinking** about your life now and into the future.
- **Identifying** your strengths, interests, networks, opportunities and challenges.
- **Considering** your current supports including your informal, mainstream and disability supports.
- **Collecting** your disability information, this may include existing reports and other information to support a NDIS access request.
- **Creating** words or pictures about your daily life and goals.

The Queensland Government and the NDIA are delivering a range of information and activities to help people with disability, their families and carers, service providers and the community to get ready for the NDIS. You can find out more about upcoming events at [www.ndis.gov.au/qld](http://www.ndis.gov.au/qld)

Events and activities to prepare for the NDIS will be held in Townsville, Charters Towers and Palm Island.

Participating in a Queensland NDIS Participant Readiness workshop or activity is a great way to prepare for the NDIS. Find out more at [www.qld.gov.au/ndis](http://www.qld.gov.au/ndis).

### More information

[www.ndis.gov.au/qld](http://www.ndis.gov.au/qld)

**1800 800 110\***

8am to 5pm (AEST) Monday to Friday

For people with hearing or speech loss

**TTY 1800 555 677**

Speak and listen

**1800 555 727**

For people who need help with English

**TIS 131 450**

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[www.communities.qld.gov.au/ndis](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/ndis)

\*1800 calls from fixed lines are free. Calls from mobiles may be charged.