

Preparing for the NDIS in the Nepean Blue Mountains area

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is now available in the Nepean Blue Mountains area for children and young people under 18 years of age on 1 July 2015.

This factsheet provides background on the NDIS and information on the rollout.

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 Scheme 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.

So far, the NDIS has been trialled in several sites across the country. In the Nepean Blue Mountains area, the NDIS will be introduced as part of an early rollout of the Scheme.

How does the NDIS work?

The NDIS takes a flexible, whole-of-life approach 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 also works to connect participants with community and mainstream supports. The NDIS 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 Scheme to work closely with community organisations to identify opportunities for people with disability.

In the Nepean Blue Mountains area, there are many well-established community organisations who will be important in helping local families prepare for the NDIS. They will also play a vital role in assisting children and young people to achieve their goals.

**The NDIS will be in the
Nepean Blue Mountains area from
1 July 2015.**

How will the early transition work?

In the Nepean Blue Mountains area, the NDIS will initially support children, young people, their families and carers to get ready for the Scheme through community engagement forums, building links with mainstream and community supports and, for some people, assistance with access and planning.

From September, around 2000 children and young people under 18 years of age will gradually phase into the Scheme.

The focus is on early intervention, which ensures children and young people with disability are able to access supports early on in life with a view to helping them attend mainstream schools, engage in community activities and live a life like any other child.

The Commonwealth and NSW Governments have agreed for children and young people to transition to the NDIS in the Nepean Blue Mountains in the following way:

From 1 September 2015 to 31 March 2016

Children and young people currently receiving support from NSW Government funded disability services will be transitioned to the NDIS. In this initial phase, priority has largely been given to 0-6 year olds currently receiving services through Early Childhood Intervention providers.

Families involved in the Commonwealth Government's Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) program will begin to transition from 1 September 2015.

Children currently receiving support under the Commonwealth Government's Better Start for Children with Disability Initiative (Better Start) will progressively transition into the scheme from 1 September 2015.

Children and young people not currently receiving disability supports from the NSW Government will progressively transition into the scheme from 1 September 2015 with priority being given to those in urgent or exceptional circumstances.

From 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016

Other children and young people aged under 18 currently receiving support from NSW Government funded disability services will transition to the NDIS.

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

Who can access the NDIS?

To access the NDIS in Nepean Blue Mountains people must:

- Be under 18 years of age on 1 July 2015*;
and
- Have an impairment or condition that is likely to be permanent and stops them from doing everyday things for themselves,
or
Need support now that will reduce their need for support in the future,
or
Be aged under six years old with developmental delay.
and
- Live in the Local Government areas of the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Lithgow and Penrith.
- Be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident or hold a Protected Special Category Visa.

* Children born after 1 July 2015 will be able to access the NDIS as part of the early transition.

More information

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

ndis.gov.au

enquiries@ndis.gov.au

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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