



Northern Territory
roll out

**Participant
Information Pack**



The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing individualised support for people with disability, their families and carers. The NDIS is the insurance that gives us all peace of mind. Disability could affect anyone and having the right support makes a big difference.

The NDIS provides eligible people a flexible, whole-of-life approach to the support needed to pursue their goals and aspirations and participate in daily life.

1. What?



The Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments have agreed to roll out the NDIS in the Northern Territory.

The NDIS commenced in the Northern Territory on 1 July 2014 for people up to age 65 living in the Barkly region.

2. When?



The NDIS will be rolled out geographically across the Northern Territory over the next three years.

From 1 July 2016, roll out of the NDIS will continue in the Barkly region. Lessons from the Barkly region have shown that the NDIS works in remote and very remote communities.

3. Where?



- East Arnhem
- Darwin Urban (supported accommodation only)



- Darwin Remote
- Katherine
- Alice Springs (supported accommodation only)



- Darwin Urban
- Central Australia, including Alice Springs

4. How?

The National Disability Insurance Agency is working closely with relevant Commonwealth and Northern Territory government departments to ensure a smooth transition to the NDIS for people with disability, their families, carers and providers.



5. What can I do to prepare?



If you currently receive disability services you will be contacted before your area transitions. If you are not currently receiving support you will be able to apply to access the NDIS when it is available in your area. Information and resources are available at www.ndis.gov.au/nt



Visit our website at www.ndis.gov.au/nt



Call us on 1800 800 110



NDIS Fact Sheet

Preparing for the NDIS in the Northern Territory

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will roll out in the Northern Territory from 1 July 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 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. The NDIS commenced in the Northern Territory on 1 July 2014 for people up to age 65 living in the Barkly region.

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 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 the Northern Territory, 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.

How will the roll out work?

The details on how people will phase into the NDIS have been agreed between the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory governments.

In the Northern Territory, the NDIS will be rolled out geographically.

Roll out of the NDIS will continue in the Barkly region from 1 July 2016.

From 1 January 2017 the NDIS will begin to be available in the East Arnhem region.

From 1 July 2017 the NDIS will begin to be available in the Darwin Remote and Katherine regions.

From 1 July 2018 the NDIS will begin to be available in the Darwin Urban and Central Australia regions, including Alice Springs.

Eligible people in supported accommodation, including Commonwealth Residential Aged Care, will generally move to the NDIS before transition commences in their region.

From 1 January 2017 people in supported accommodation in Darwin Urban will begin to move to the NDIS.

From 1 July 2017 people in supported accommodation in Alice Springs and Katherine will move to the NDIS.

The NDIS will be operating Territory-wide by July 2019, ultimately providing support to more than 6,500 people.

**The NDIS will roll out in
new areas of the
Northern Territory from
January 2017.**

Who can access the NDIS?

To access the NDIS in the Northern Territory people must:

- live in an area 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?

If you currently receive disability services you will be contacted before your area transitions. If you are not currently receiving services you will be able to apply to access the NDIS when it is available in your area.

Additional information and resources to help you prepare are available from ndis.gov.au/nt.

More information

ndis.gov.au/nt

1800 800 110*

9am to 5pm (local time) 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

Follow us on Twitter

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Find us on Facebook

facebook.com/NDISAUS

*1800 calls from fixed lines are free.

Calls from mobiles may be charged.



Frequently Asked Questions – Northern Territory

When is the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) coming to my area?

The Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments have agreed to roll out the NDIS in the Northern Territory.

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.

The NDIS will be rolled out geographically across the Northern Territory over the next three years.

Roll out of the NDIS will continue in the Barkly region from 1 July 2016. Lessons from the Barkly region have shown that the NDIS works in remote and very remote communities.

From 1 January 2017 the NDIS will begin to be available in the East Arnhem region. The East Arnhem region consists of the East Arnhem Local Government Authority.

From 1 July 2017 the NDIS will begin to be available in the Darwin Remote and Katherine regions.

The Darwin Remote region consists of the following Local Government Authorities:

- Roper Gulf
- Tiwi Islands
- Victoria-Daly
- West Arnhem
- West Daly Region

The Katherine region consists of the Katherine Local Government Authority.

From 1 July 2018 the NDIS will begin to be available in the Darwin Urban and Central Australia regions.

The Darwin Urban region consists of the following Local Government Authorities:

- Belyuen
- Coomalie
- Darwin
- Litchfield
- Palmerston
- Wagait

The Central Australia region consists of the following Local Government Authorities:

- Alice Springs
- Central Desert
- MacDonnell

Eligible people in supported accommodation, including Commonwealth Residential Aged Care, will move to the NDIS as follows:

- From 1 January 2017 people in supported accommodation in Darwin Urban will begin to move

to the NDIS.

- From 1 July 2017 people in supported accommodation in Alice Springs and Katherine will move to the NDIS.

Who is eligible to access the NDIS?

You can meet access requirements if you live in a location where the NDIS is available, meet the age and residency requirements, and meet either the disability or early intervention requirements.

Please use the [NDIS Access Checklist](#) to see if you might meet the access requirements.

What are the disability requirements?

You may meet the disability requirements if:

- you have an impairment or condition that is, or is likely to be permanent (i.e. it is likely to be lifelong) and
- your impairment substantially reduces your ability to participate effectively in activities, or perform tasks or actions unless you have:
 - assistance from other people or
 - you have assistive technology or equipment (other than common items such as glasses) or
 - you can't participate effectively even with assistance or aides and equipment **and**
- your impairment affects your capacity for social and economic participation **and**
- you are likely to require support under the NDIS for your lifetime.

An impairment that varies in intensity e.g. because the impairment is of a chronic episodic nature may still be permanent, and you may require support under the NDIS for your lifetime, despite the variation.

What are the early intervention requirements?

You may meet the early intervention requirements:

- if you have an impairment or condition that is likely to be permanent and
- there is evidence that getting supports now (early interventions) will help you by:
 - reducing how much help you will need to do things because of your impairment in the future **and**
 - improving or reducing deterioration of your functional capacity or
 - helping your family and carers to keep helping you **and**
 - those supports are most appropriately funded through the NDIS, and not through another service system.

OR

- you are a child aged under 6 years of age with developmental delay which results in:
 - substantially reduced functional capacity in one or more of the areas of self-care, receptive and expressive language, cognitive development or motor development and
 - results in the need for a combination and sequence of special interdisciplinary or generic care, treatment or other services which are of extended duration, and are individually planned and coordinated; **and**
- those supports are most appropriately funded through the NDIS, and not through another service system.

What types of information will I need to provide?

So that we can determine whether you meet the disability or early intervention access requirements, you may need to provide the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) with information about your disability, development delay or early intervention requirements.

This may include providing copies of existing letters, assessments or reports from health or educational professionals that detail your impairment and its impact on your daily life.

What are informal supports?

Informal supports are the arrangements already available to you through your family, friendship and community networks.

Informal supports are part of family life. They are the natural connections you may have with friends and community services to assist you in everyday life.

Informal supports are provided to individuals by families, carers, social networks, and the community.

What can be funded?

The types of supports that the NDIS may fund for participants may include:

- daily personal activities
- transport to enable participation in community, social, economic and daily life activities
- help to allow a participant to successfully get or keep employment in the open or supported labour market
- therapeutic supports including behaviour support
- help with household tasks to allow the participant to maintain their home environment
- help to a participant by skilled personnel in aids or equipment assessment, set up and training
- home modification design and installation
- mobility equipment, and
- vehicle modifications.

What will not be funded?

The NDIS Act 2013 and the rules made under the NDIS Act tell us which supports will not be funded by the NDIS. A support will not be funded if it:

- is not related to the participant's disability
- duplicates other supports already funded by a different mechanism from the NDIS, such as Medicare or Departments of Education
- relates to day-to-day living costs that are not related to a participant's support needs, or
- is likely to cause harm to the participant or pose a risk to others.

How can the funding in plans be managed?

You have choice and the control over how you use funded supports in your plan. That includes choice of how the supports are given and which service providers you use.

There are five ways that plans can be managed.

1. **Agency Managed** – this is where the providers claim directly from the NDIA.
2. **Plan Manager** – funding in your plan is allocated for a third party to manage the financial transactions in your plan.
3. **Self Managed** – you (or your nominee) directly manage the funds; all transactions are completed by the participant for services rendered.

4. **Automated Payments** (transport only) – these funds can be deposited into an NDIS bank account weekly, fortnightly or monthly.
5. **Combination** – a combination of the above four options can be used together to meet your individual needs.

In some cases the NDIA or others will manage the funding for supports. For example, where there is an unreasonable risk to a participant.

How do I get ready for my first NDIS plan?

The NDIS sees every participant as an individual. As planning is an individual process, this is the time to start thinking about what you want to achieve. Knowing what you would like to work towards will help you to think about the supports and services you'll need to achieve those goals.

Your first NDIS plan may include the same supports and services you currently receive. This will give you some time before you do your next plan to think about how those supports are working for you, and if there are other supports which may help you achieve your goals.

Until you have a plan in place, you will keep getting the support you currently get.

What will happen to my current supports?

The existing disability supports will continue until your first NDIS plan is approved.

More information

Contact us if you would like more information on managing your supports.

Visit: www.ndis.gov.au/nt

Call: **1800 800 110***

For people with hearing or speech loss – TTY: 1800 555 677

Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) – 1800 555 727

For people who need help with English – Translating and Interpreting Service: 131 450

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* 1800 calls are free from fixed lines. However, calls from mobiles may be charged.