



## Frequently Asked Questions – WA

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

The Commonwealth and State governments have agreed to expand and extend NDIS trials in WA.

The NDIS is administered by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

From 1 July 2014, the NDIA's Perth Hills trial site has supported people with disability aged up to 65 living in the following local government areas

- Swan
- Kalamunda
- Mundaring

From 1 January 2017, the NDIA trial site will be extended to

- Bayswater
- Bassendean
- Chittering
- Toodyay
- York
- Northam

All trial sites are scheduled to operate until 30 June 2017.

People living outside the trial sites will continue to receive support under existing State Government systems.

These NDIA trial sites are being run at the same time as a State Government version of the trial, known as WA NDIS (formerly My Way). The State Government's WA NDIS model started in the Lower South West on 1 July 2014, and Cockburn and Kwinana joined on 1 July 2015. From 1 October 2016 to 30 June 2017, WA NDIS will include Armadale, Murray and Serpentine-Jarrahdale. For more information about WA NDIS, see [www.disability.wa.gov.au/wa-ndis-my-way/wa-ndis-my-way/](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/wa-ndis-my-way/wa-ndis-my-way/)

### 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 and parcel 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 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 to think about how those supports are working for you, and if there are other supports, which may help you achieve your goals before you do your next plan.

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

There is a range of ways the NDIS helps you to prepare for planning. Participant Readiness workshops are a great way to get an understanding of the NDIS and what to expect in the planning process.

## What will happen to my current supports?

The State Government will continue to provide disability supports to existing clients until their NDIS plan is approved.

## More information

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

Visit: <a href="http://www.ndis.gov.au/qld">www.ndis.gov.au/qld</a>	Call: <b>1800 800 110*</b>
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

\* The call centre is open Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm EST

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