



NSW roll out

**Participant
Information Pack**

Where is the NDIS?

The NDIS has been trialled in seven locations across the country, because it is a big change to the current system and we want to get it right. The scheme will be rolled out nationally from 2016.

The most up to date information on where the NDIS is available can be found on our website.



For more information

 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
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This document provides general guidance about the operation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as at the date of publication and is for general purposes only.

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ndis National Disability
Insurance Scheme

What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme?



Information about the NDIS,
what it does and how to access it

What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme?

The NDIS supports people with a permanent and significant disability that affects their ability to take part in everyday activities.

We will work with you to identify supports you need to live your life. Supports may help you achieve goals in many aspects of your life, including independence, involvement in your community, education, employment and health and wellbeing.

The NDIS gives you more choice and control over how, when and where your supports are provided, and gives you certainty you will receive the support you need over your lifetime.

It also focuses on early intervention where getting early supports can reduce the impact of disability on you or your child.

For people who access the NDIS (participants)

If you are able to access the NDIS as a participant, we will look at the supports you currently receive and how well they are working for you. This may include your family, friends, mainstream or other community services.

If required, the NDIS will also fund reasonable and necessary supports that help you achieve your goals such as therapies, equipment, home modifications, mobility equipment, taking part in community activities or assistance with employment.

An NDIS plan tailored to your individual needs will be developed to help you achieve your goals. This could include your existing supports if you are happy with your arrangements and if they meet your needs and goals.

For people who need some assistance

Anyone with or affected by disability can ask us for information and referrals, including families and carers of people with disability.

This can include better access to information about the most effective support options, links to local support groups, clubs and programs, or referrals to relevant community services and supports.

For families and carers

We work with families and carers to make sure the support they give can be sustained.

We consider the carer's role when developing plans with participants including the support they provide, other responsibilities, and their own life plans.

We also recognise some people with disability may want the support of family and carers to make informed decisions, and we value their views, knowledge and experience.



Can I access the NDIS?

You need to meet the following requirements:

- have a permanent disability that significantly affects your ability to take part in everyday activities
- be aged less than 65 when you first access the scheme
- be an Australian citizen, live in Australia and hold a permanent visa or hold a Protected Special Category Visa.

The NDIS is being introduced progressively across Australia.

The access checklist on our website provides more information on access requirements.

Next steps

Once the NDIS has confirmed you meet the access requirements of the scheme, a planner will arrange to meet with you.

Together, you will discuss your needs, goals and aspirations and the supports you currently receive.

This may take more than one meeting and you can bring someone with you for support.

Using this information, your planner will then develop a plan of supports that best meets your needs and your goals.



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 New South Wales governments have agreed on how the NDIS will be rolled out across NSW. The NDIS already has a trial site in the Hunter region and an early transition site in Nepean Blue Mountains for 2000 children and young people aged 17 and under.

2. When



The NDIS is a big change and will be progressively rolled out across NSW. The NDIS will be operating state-wide by July 2018.

3. Where



- Central Coast
- Hunter New England
- Nepean Blue Mountains
- Northern Sydney
- South Western Sydney
- Southern NSW
- Western Sydney
- Illawarra Shoalhaven
- Mid North Coast
- Murrumbidgee
- Northern NSW
- South Eastern Sydney
- Sydney
- Western NSW
- Far West

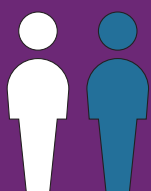
The NDIS is operating state-wide

4. How

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



5. What can I do to prepare?



Before your district transitions, if you currently access services you will be contacted to discuss the process of entering the NDIS. If you are not currently receiving support, check the information and resources available at www.ndis.gov.au/nsw



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



Call us on **1800 800 110**

Preparing for the NDIS in New South Wales

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will roll out in NSW 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 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.

So far, the NDIS has been trialled in several sites across the country.

In NSW the NDIS commenced in the Hunter area on 1 July 2013 for people up to age 65 living in the Local Government Areas of Newcastle, Maitland and Lake Macquarie.

An early transition site in Nepean Blue Mountains opened on 1 July 2015 for children and young people aged under 18 living in the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Lithgow and Penrith Local Government Areas.

From 1 July 2016, the NDIS will be rolled out across NSW. The NDIS will be operating state-wide by July 2018.

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 NSW, 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.

**The NDIS will roll out in NSW from
1 July 2016.**

How will the roll out work?

In NSW, the NDIS will be rolled out progressively across different locations.

From 1 July 2016 seven districts will begin to transition to the NDIS. These districts are:

- Central Coast
- Northern Sydney
- South Western Sydney
- Southern NSW
- Western Sydney
- Remaining populations of Hunter New England and Nepean Blue Mountains

From 1 July 2017 a further eight districts will begin to transition to the NDIS. These districts will be:

- Illawarra Shoalhaven
- Mid North Coast
- Murrumbidgee
- Northern NSW
- South Eastern Sydney
- Sydney
- Western NSW
- Far West

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

More information on how people will phase into the NDIS in NSW is available from www.ndis.gov.au/nsw

Who can access the NDIS?

To access the NDIS in NSW 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?

Before your district transitions, if you currently access services you will be contacted to discuss the process of entering the NDIS. You can find out which district you live in and information and resources to help you prepare at www.ndis.gov.au/nsw

More information

ndis.gov.au/nsw

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Frequently Asked Questions – New South Wales

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

The Commonwealth and New South Wales governments have signed an agreement that outlines the transition arrangements for New South Wales (NSW). In NSW, the NDIS will be operating state-wide by July 2018.

By the end of the transition the full NDIS will be operating across the state and around 115,000 participants will have the services and support they need to live more independent lives. The agreement provides for up to 26,000 potential new entrants in the first year of the full scheme—people who either do not have a current need, have newly acquired disabilities, or are currently unknown to the disability support system.

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.

In NSW the NDIS will roll out in districts identified by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services. The maps below show these districts and the tables list the Local Government Areas within these districts.



From 1 July 2016

District	Local Government Areas	
Central Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gosford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wyong
Northern Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hornsby Hunters Hill Ku-ring-gai Lane Cove Manly Mosman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Sydney Pittwater Ryde Warringah Willoughby

South Western Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bankstown • Camden • Campbelltown • Fairfield 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liverpool • Wingecarribee • Wollondilly
Southern NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bega Valley • Bombala • Cooma-Monaro • Eurobodalla • Goulburn Mulwaree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palerang • Queanbeyan • Snowy River • Upper Lachlan Shire • Yass Valley
Western Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auburn • Blacktown • Holroyd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parramatta • The Hills Shire
The remaining population of Hunter New England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armidale Dumaresq • Cessnock • Dungog • Glen Innes Severn • Gloucester • Great Lakes • Greater Taree • Gunnedah • Guyra • Gwydir • Inverell • Lake Macquarie • Liverpool Plains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maitland • Moree Plains • Muswellbrook • Narrabri • Newcastle • Port Stephens • Singleton • Tamworth Regional • Tenterfield • Upper Hunter Shire • Uralla • Walcha
The remaining population of Nepean Blue Mountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Mountains • Hawkesbury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lithgow • Penrith

From 1 July 2017

District	Local Government Areas	
Illawarra Shoalhaven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiama • Shellharbour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoalhaven • Wollongong
Mid North Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bellingen • Coffs Harbour • Kempsey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nambucca • Port Macquarie-Hastings
Murrumbidgee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albury • Berrigan • Bland • Boorowa • Carrathool • Conargo • Coolamon • Cootamundra • Corowa Shire • Deniliquin • Greater Hume Shire • Griffith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerilderie • Junee • Leeton • Lockhart • Murray • Murrumbidgee • Narrandera • Temora • Tumbarumba • Tumut Shire • Urana • Wagga Wagga

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gundagai • Harden • Hay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wakool • Young
Northern NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballina • Byron • Clarence Valley • Kyogle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lismore • Richmond Valley • Tweed
South Eastern Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botany Bay • Hurstville • Kogarah • Randwick • Rockdale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sutherland Shire • Sydney - Inner and East • Waverley • Woollahra
Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashfield • Burwood • Canada Bay • Canterbury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leichhardt • Marrickville • Strathfield • Sydney - South and West
Western NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathurst Regional • Blayney • Bogan • Bourke • Brewarrina • Cabonne • Cobar • Coonamble • Cowra • Dubbo • Forbes • Gilgandra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lachlan • Mid-Western Regional • Narromine • Oberon • Orange • Parkes • Walgett • Warren • Warrumbungle Shire • Weddin • Wellington
Far West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balranald • Broken Hill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Darling • Wentworth

Who is eligible to access the NDIS?

You can meet access requirements if you live in a location that is transitioning, are the right age for that location, meet residency and either the disability or early intervention requirements.

Please use the [NDIS Access Checklist](#) on the NDIS website 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 likely to be permanent (i.e. it is likely to be life long) 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 aids 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
- workplace 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 funding for 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.

What information do I need to take to the first planning meeting?

To start you on the planning process, the NDIA has prepared a Planning Workbook. This can be found on the NDIS website: www.ndis.gov.au/participants/planning-process

The NDIA recommends completing as much of the Planning Workbook as possible. The Planning Workbook is a very useful tool to identify your goals, what supports you are currently getting (funded, mainstream and informal supports), and what you need to reach your goals.

This workbook is available for both child and adult participants.

What will happen to my current supports?

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

How will I know when my program/provider will be moving to the NDIS?

The NDIA, Commonwealth Government and NSW Department of Family and Community Services will work in partnership to ensure everyone is informed.

More information

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

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