



Tasmania 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
1800 555 727*

For people who need help with English
TIS 131 450

 Follow us on Twitter @NDIS

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

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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.

The NDIS is not providing professional advice and users should obtain their own advice if proposing to make decisions based on this document. NDIS does not accept any liability caused directly or indirectly by any error or omission in this document or arising from any action taken by any person in reliance upon it.

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.

Five things you need to know about the NDIS in Tasmania



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 insurance, which gives us all peace of mind. Disability can 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 they need to pursue their goals. It also fosters social inclusion and economic participation.

1. What?



The Commonwealth and Tasmanian governments have agreed on how the NDIS will be rolled out in Tasmania. In Tasmania, the NDIS will be operating state-wide for all age groups by July 2019. The NDIS is currently available for people aged 15-24.

2. When?



The NDIS is a big change and it will be progressively rolled out in Tasmania. People will move to the NDIS at different times depending on age and living circumstances. The NDIS will be operating state-wide for all age groups by July 2019.

3. Who?



12-14 yrs old



25-28 yrs old



4-11 yrs old



29-34 yrs old



0-3 yrs old



50-64 yrs old

+
35-49 yrs old

Eligible residents in shared supported accommodation will access the NDIS together on a house-by-house basis.

4. How?

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is working closely with relevant Commonwealth and Tasmanian government departments to ensure a smooth NDIS transition for all existing and new clients, their families and providers.



5. What can I do to prepare?



If you currently receive disability services and are eligible to enter the NDIS, you will be contacted before you transition. If you are currently not receiving support, you may still be able to access the NDIS. Information and resources are available at www.ndis.gov.au/tas



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



Call us on **1800 800 110**

Preparing for the NDIS in Tasmania

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will roll out in Tasmania 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 likely to be permanent, or a developmental delay which 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. On 1 July 2013, the NDIS trial commenced in Tasmania and over 1,000 Tasmanians, aged 15 to 24 years, have accessed the NDIS.

The NDIS will be made available progressively across the state, by age, over the next three years. By July 2019, it is expected over 10,500 Tasmanians will transition to the NDIS.

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 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 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 Tasmania, 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 Tasmania
from 1 July 2016.**

How will the roll out work?

The details on how people will phase into the NDIS has been negotiated between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian governments.

From 1 July 2016, the NDIS will be available to children, aged 12 to 14.

From 1 January 2017, the NDIS will be available to adults, aged 25 to 28.

From 1 July 2017, the NDIS will be available to children, aged 4 to 11.

From 1 January 2018, the NDIS will be available to adults, aged 29 to 34.

From 1 July 2018, the NDIS will be available to children, aged 0 to 3, and adults, aged 35 to 49.

From 1 January 2019, the NDIS will be available to adults, aged 50 to 64.

Eligible residents in shared supported accommodation, will access the NDIS together on a house-by-house basis.

Tasmanian Gateway Services will assist people to connect with services and prepare for the NDIS.

It's important to remember, existing Commonwealth and state-based services and supports will continue until people with disability start their NDIS plan.

Who can access the NDIS?

To access the NDIS in Tasmania people must:

- meet the age and residency requirements; and
- meet either the disability or early intervention requirements.

The access checklist on the NDIS website provides access requirements.

What can I do to prepare?

If you currently receive disability services and are eligible to enter the NDIS, you will be contacted before you transition. If you are currently not receiving support, you may still be able to access the NDIS. Information and resources are available at ndis.gov.au/tas.

More information

ndis.gov.au/tas

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Frequently Asked Questions – Tasmania

When will I transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)?

The Commonwealth and Tasmania governments have announced they have reached agreement to roll out the NDIS in Tasmania.

The NDIS will be made available progressively across Tasmania, based on age, over a three-year period. The NDIS is being introduced in stages because it is a big change and it is important to get it right and make it sustainable. By July 2019, over 10,500 Tasmanians will transition to the NDIS.

From 1 July 2016, the NDIS will be available for children, aged 12 to 14.

From 1 January 2017, the NDIS will be available for adults, aged 25 to 28.

From 1 July 2017, the NDIS will be available for children, aged 4 to 11.

From 1 January 2018, the NDIS will be available for adults, aged 29 to 34.

From 1 July 2018, the NDIS will be available for children, aged 0 to 3, and adults, aged 35 to 49.

From 1 January 2019, the NDIS will be available for adults, aged 50 to 64.

By 1 July 2019, all eligible Tasmanians, 0 to age 64, will become NDIS participants.

Eligible residents in shared supported accommodation will access the NDIS together on a house-by-house basis.

Tasmanian Gateway Services will assist people to connect with services and prepare for the NDIS.

For more information on Tasmania's NDIS transition, visit www.ndis.gov.au

Who can become a participant?

You can meet access requirements if you are in an age group moving to the NDIS, are under 65 and meet the residency and 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 likely to be permanent (i.e. it's 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 which varies in intensity. For example, the impairment is of a chronic episodic nature which may still be permanent, and you may require NDIS support 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 likely to be permanent and
 - there is evidence getting supports (early interventions) now 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 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 do I need to provide?

So 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 detailing your impairment and its impact on your daily life.

What are informal supports?

Informal supports are the arrangements already available to the individual through their 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 the NDIS may fund for participants include:

- daily personal supports
- transport, for example to help you get to work, school or community activity
- help to get or keep a job

- therapeutic supports, including behaviour support
- help with household tasks, to make sure you can keep and look after your home
- help from skilled personnel for aids or equipment
- changes to your home
- equipment to help you get around, and
- changes to your car.

What will not be funded?

The NDIS Act and the rules made under the NDIS Act tell us which supports the NDIS will not fund.

A support will not be funded if it:

- is not related to the participant's disability
- doubles up on supports already funded in a different way, such as Medicare or Department of Education
- relates to your day-to-day living costs, for example, items like groceries or holidays
- is likely to cause you or someone else harm.

How can the funding in plans be managed?

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

There are five ways a plan 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 to 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.

Visit the events page on our website, at www.ndis.gov.au/news/events for workshops running in your area. You can also find more information about preparing for planning on our website, at www.ndis.gov.au.

What will happen to my current supports?

Existing services and supports will continue until you start your NDIS plan.

When will I know when my program/age group/provider will transition?

The NDIA and Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services will work in partnership to ensure everyone is informed. You will be contacted before it is time for you to transition.

For more information on Tasmania's NDIS transition, visit the website at www.ndis.gov.au/tas

More information

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

Visit: www.ndis.gov.au/tas

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