

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

INTRODUCTION TO THE NDIS

What is the NDIS?

The NDIS is a program run by the Australian government that aims to provide supports to help people with a disability to live their life and to achieve their goals relating to independence, community participation, education, employment, health and well-being.

Who is the NDIS for?

Eligible people with a significant and permanent disability will be able to participate in the NDIS. Someone who is deemed to be eligible for support and then becomes registered with the NDIS is called a 'participant'.

What kind of support can the NDIS provide my child with?

The NDIS funds reasonable and necessary supports are in a range of areas, which may include education, employment, social participation, independence, living arrangements and health and wellbeing. These supports will help participants to pursue their goals, objectives and aspirations, increase their independence and increase social participation.

Examples of supports could be the things like therapy services, equipment, or assistance from a support worker to help a child participate in activities in their

community. Each individual's supports will be different, and these are individualised after careful planning and consultation.

Will my child be eligible to participate in the NDIS?

This is determined by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), the government body that administers the scheme. The NDIS is different to some of the other funding schemes that currently exist in QLD like Better Start and Helping Children with Autism, in that eligibility is not based on a diagnostic label, but upon an individual's need for help with everyday activities and communication. You can find out more about whether your child might be eligible to participate by completing the [Access Checklist](#) on the NDIS website.

It is worthwhile to note that if your child currently isn't eligible for support from any funding program, they may still be eligible to participate in the NDIS. Likewise, just because your child currently receives funding from another program doesn't mean that they will automatically be eligible to participate in the NDIS. The NDIA will assess everyone's eligibility independent of the funding they currently

receive. We recommend that you [contact the NDIS](#) to find out more.

When will the NDIS start in Brisbane, Logan and Ipswich?

The NDIS is scheduled to roll-out (start) in Ipswich and surrounds from July 2017, and Brisbane and Logan from July 2018.

GETTING STARTED WITH NDIS

When the NDIS becomes available in your area, you can contact the NDIS to apply to access it. If your child is already receiving disability supports then the NDIS might get in touch with you first. We suggest making the first contact as soon as possible to find out what you need to do next. The number for the NDIS is 1800 800 110.

What happens next?

The NDIS will send you an Access Request Form for you to fill out with all of your child's details. You will also be asked to provide evidence of your child's disability or developmental delay.

After receiving this information, the NDIA will determine whether your child is eligible to participate in the NDIS. If they are, then the next step will be to attend a planning meeting.

What is a planning meeting?

The planning meeting is really the first step towards arranging supports for your child. You and other important people in your child's life will be able to attend the meeting with an NDIA planner. Here you will discuss the goals you have for your child and find out more about what funding the NDIS will provide you with.

What will we discuss at the planning meeting?

After discussing your child's goals, your planner will work with you to help you map out a plan of support for your child. The kind of supports you might discuss could be things like:

- Transport to enable participation in community, social, economic and daily life activities
- Therapy services including behaviour support
- Help from a skilled professional in aids or equipment assessment, set up and training (e.g. like a communication device)
- Home modification design and construction
- Mobility equipment, and
- Vehicle modifications.

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR CHILD'S SUPPORTS

After your planning meeting, your planner will talk to you about how you wish to manage your child's funding. There are two main options available to you:

1. NDIA Managed Funding

With this option, funds are held by the NDIA and any providers of services to your child will put in claim against this funding when you access their services. The service provider takes responsibility for the billing process. This option can be easy and convenient for families because the service providers take care of many of the administrative requirements, however you will only be able to receive services through registered NDIS providers. You will also require NDIS approval if you wish

to change providers at any time during the time that your child is receiving support.

2. Self Managed Funding

In order to self-manage your funding, you will be required to open a bank account specifically for NDIS purposes. The NDIS will pay funds directly into your account and you will then use these funds to pay for services from providers. You are able to choose and change providers as you wish – they do not need to be registered NDIS providers. You will need to supply NDIS with receipts and evidence of services/supports that your child has received.

3. Other funding options

You can also choose to use a combination of both options above, or you can nominate an intermediate agency to manage your funds for you. Your NDIS planner will be able to provide you with more information about these options.

Finalising Your Child's Plan

Your planner will help you to finalise your child's plan and support you to make arrangements for the support services outlined in the plan. Your child's plan will be reviewed with you every 12 months.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much funding will be allocated for my child?

Funding is not capped. As much funding as is necessary will be allocated in order to meet the goals that you and your child's planner have agreed upon in their plan.

How long can my child access support from the NDIS for?

Once someone is a participant in the NDIS, they are eligible to receive support from the NDIS for life.

My child currently receives funding from the Better Start or Helping Children with Autism program. What will happen when the NDIS is rolled out in our area?

Both HCWA and Better Start have been identified for transition to the NDIS. Once children transferring from HCWA or Better Start have a plan approved under the NDIS, their access to HCWA or Better Start funding will cease as they will then be eligible to receive funding under the NDIS. It is anticipated that if your child is eligible to participate in NDIS, then the transition should mean minimal to no disruption to their therapy services.

My child is already a participant in the NDIS but we are relocating to Brisbane. Can Boost Therapy provide services for my child?

We recommend that you speak with your child's planner about your plans for relocation as the first step. We have consulted with NDIS regarding this question on behalf of other families and the NDIS has advised us that yes, if you self-manage your funding or if you start self-managing your funding, you will be able to access therapy services in Brisbane from any provider of your choice, provided that the supports are outlined in your child's plan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

 www.ndis.gov.au

 1800 800 110

 We are happy to help guide you and answer any questions relating to using NDIS to access speech and/or occupational therapy for your child.