

What is the NDIS?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way of providing support to Australian's living with a significant and permanent disability. The NDIS provides eligible Australians with the reasonable and necessary support to live an ordinary life, and to be more independent and actively participate in their communities. The NDIS offers the person choice and control over how, when and where they use their supports to achieve their goals.

Is the NDIA different to the NDIS?

Yes, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is the independent agency that has responsibility for the implementation and management of the NDIS.

Is there support available to access the NDIS?

IUIH and its Member Services have committed to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in South East Queensland to understand and gain access to the NDIS. The IUIH NDIS Readiness Project will be working with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to make culturally appropriate NDIS information available to clients and to support eligible people to access the NDIS.

What do they mean by disability?

The term disability refers to an impairment or condition which significantly affects a person's ability to do ordinary, everyday things (e.g. getting around, shopping, looking after themselves etc.) without help. The impairment or condition must be permanent or likely to be permanent (be with you for life) and be either intellectual, physical, psychosocial, neurological, sensory or cognitive, or a combination of these.

A disability is different from a medical condition – if you're unsure about whether you have a disability, speak to your health professional.

Why do we need the NDIS?

The NDIS replaces a variety of Commonwealth, State and Territory disability systems. The NDIS is a single National scheme which recognises that people with disability, have the same rights as other Australians to determine what they want their life to be like and how they want to be supported to achieve their goals.

How do I know if I'm eligible for the NDIS?

To be eligible for the NDIS you must:

- Be under 65 years of age, and
- Be a citizen or permanent resident of Australia, and
- Have an impairment or condition (referred to as a disability by the NDIS) which is permanent, or likely to be permanent and which significantly restricts your ability to do everyday activities without help.

When will the NDIS be available in South East Queensland?

The NDIS roll-out starts at different times in different areas; for people in Ipswich and West Moreton roll-out commenced 1 July 2017.

For people living in the Gold Coast, Logan, Redlands and Brisbane roll-out starts from 1 July 2018, while for people in Moreton Bay (including Strathpine and Caboolture) the Sunshine Coast (including Nambour and Gympie) roll-out starts 1 January 2019.

I already receive disability supports. What will the NDIS mean for me?

The Commonwealth or State agency that funds your supports will share your contact details with the NDIS prior to the scheme rolling out where you live. The NDIS will then contact you and confirm your access into the scheme.

In most cases you will not have to provide any further information to access supports.

If you currently receive Commonwealth or State (Disability Services Queensland) funded disability supports and you haven't been contacted by the NDIS by the time the scheme rolls out where you live, you should immediately contact the NDIS on 1800 800 110.

I don't receive disability supports now but think I might be eligible for the NDIS. What should I do?

Attending an IUIH NDIS Information Session is a great way to get a clearer picture about the NDIS and how to access it. Requesting access to the NDIS requires the completion of forms and the gathering of information from GPs, Specialists or Allied Health Providers.

Can I get help accessing the NDIS?

At these Information Sessions we will help people understand the scheme and submit the necessary forms.

To take the pressure off you and to ensure the process is as smooth as possible for you, you may want a staff member from your local clinic to act as your 'Nominated Representative'. They can then be your NDIS contact and ensure all necessary paperwork is completed and submitted.

Will joining the NDIS affect my other disability supports?

Yes. The NDIS will replace all Commonwealth and State disability support funding. The NDIA states that "nobody will be worse off" by joining the scheme and in most cases the NDIS will offer a greater range of supports and more flexibility with how they are used.

Will the NDIS affect Centrelink payments?

Yes, but only in some cases.

- Mobility Allowance will cease for anyone accessing the NDIS; however, funding for transport needs will be included in the person's NDIS support budget
- Disability Support Pension (DSP) is not affected
- NDIS participation does not directly affect Carer Payment or Carer Allowance, Carer Payment and Carer Allowance will only be affected if a person's NDIS plan substantially changes the care arrangements to the extent the carer is no longer eligible under Centrelink criteria.

What sort of things does the NDIS provide funding for?

The NDIS will provide "reasonable and necessary" supports; these supports must relate to your disability and could include:

- Help with personal care (e.g. support with showering, dressing etc.)
- Help with preparing meals and maintaining your home
- Assistance with transport so you can participate in community, social, economic and daily life activities (e.g. going shopping, visiting friends, getting to work, seeing your Doctor etc.)
- Help to get or keep a job
- Therapy support (e.g. Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Speech Language Therapy etc.)
- The purchase of specialist aids and equipment to maximise your independence (e.g. wheelchairs, hoists, specialist communication devices etc.)
- Home and vehicle modifications (e.g. ramps, a bath hoist or a swivel seat etc.)

Where can I find out more information?

The IUIH NDIS Readiness Project team will do what they can to help you understand this new and exciting scheme, you can contact the team at ndis@iuih.org.au

The NDIS website has plenty of information and resources to help you understand the NDIS better. You can visit www.ndis.gov.au or call 1800 800 110 anytime between 8.00am to 11.00pm Monday to Friday.