

NDIS AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY



Health

About the NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a national system of support focused on the needs and choices of people with disability, including mental illness. It is a new way of providing individualised support for people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers.

This new scheme will provide disability support funding directly to eligible participants enabling them to purchase the services they need.

A National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has been established to implement the Scheme. The NDIA is responsible for assessing eligibility and working with participants to develop support plans to meet their needs.

NSW Health is working closely with the NDIA to ensure that our patients, their families and carers can make the most of the opportunities and services available through the NDIS

On 1 July 2013, a trial of the NDIS commenced in the Hunter region and by 1 July 2018, the NDIS will be fully rolled out across NSW.

NDIS and NSW Health

The Scheme is not intended to replace mainstream health services. NSW Health will continue to provide emergency and routine clinical services such as surgery, dental care and palliative care to all NSW residents, including those with a disability.

However, the implementation of the NDIS may result in some variations to the way services are delivered in NSW Health.

The Hunter trial will help identify how local health districts can best support the implementation of the NDIS in their local area, including how to support patients and their families/carers while keeping NSW Health staff, the community and industrial associations informed on progress.

Eligibility criteria

General

To be eligible to become a participant of the NDIS an individual must satisfy the age requirements (under 65 years at time of request) and residence requirements (ie be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident of Australia or a New Zealand citizen who is a Protected Special Category Visa holder). During the trial period (1 July 2013 to 30 June 2016), there are additional residency requirements related to living in the Hunter trial area.

In addition, an individual must satisfy one of the disability or early intervention requirements set out in the NDIS Act 2013. More detail on each requirement is set out in the [NDIS \(Becoming a Participant\) Rules 2013](#).

People requiring assistive technology

Some people requiring assistive technology will be eligible to become NDIS participants. Once a person with disability becomes a participant they can access individualised plans to identify the reasonable and necessary supports they need.

Supports provided by the NDIS

The NDIS is responsible for:

- ▶ providing aids and equipment, including orthoses and permanent prosthetics that provide increased or independent functioning in the home and community
- ▶ personal support and home modifications which enable a person with disability to live in the community
- ▶ supervision of care by clinically trained staff, where care is integral to support a person with disability to live in the community, for example catheter changes and skin integrity checks
- ▶ routine, non-clinical care to enable daily living, for example routine bowel care and oral suctioning

The ongoing role of NSW Health

NSW Health will continue to be responsible for assessment and diagnosis of disability and rehabilitative health services where the purpose is to restore or increase functioning through time-limited care.

NSW Health will also provide specialist allied health, rehabilitation and other therapy jointly with the NDIS to enhance functioning and integration in the community.

NSW Health will continue to be responsible for providing clinical care in relation to both mental and physical health, and providing care in clinical residential settings

Referrals to NDIS and other support services

Patients will be referred to the NDIA for assessment where a person with disability either comes to the attention of a health service, or is clinically assessed as being able to benefit from, or live in the community with assistive technology supports.

Further information:

- ▶ For further information on the NDIS visit www.ndis.gov.au
- ▶ To find out if a person with disability is eligible for the NDIS use [My Access Checker](#) available on the NDIS website.