

NDIS AT A GLANCE

The NDIS is a significant shift from the old approach where organisations received block funding and determined what programs and services will be provided – to the new approach – where people have individual plans and payments through national funding that is based on insurance principles of the scheme.

The insurance principles funnel money into

support and interventions that work for a person's specific situation, and reduce costs over the span of a lifetime. The scheme identifies supports to assist people to meet their goals, and enable them to live their life the way they want to.

Goals may relate to living arrangements, independence, social participation, involvement in community and / or assistance with employment.

10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NDIS

- 1. The NDIS promotes choice, control and social and economic participation.**
Participants have the freedom to choose their own service providers, giving them control over decisions about how to live their lives.
- 2. The NDIS is a whole-of-life approach;** this means that a person with a disability or significant impairment can receive the support they need to achieve their goals across their lifetime.
- 3. The NDIS is not means tested.** It funds personalised supports, including equipment, which promote and maintain inclusion and participation in everyday life and that are **reasonable and necessary**.
- 4. The NDIS is transforming the disability sector** for people under the age of 65. People affected by multiple sclerosis in the trial areas are reporting positive outcomes now they have regular, funded support.
- 5. To be eligible for the NDIS** a person needs to be under 65 at the time of the NDIS rollout in their area; satisfy residency requirements; and able to demonstrate disability or impairment that has substantial impact on their daily life.
- 6. The NDIS ensures equity of access** by addressing the needs of people in regional and remote Australia, Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI) and people from Indigenous and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds
- 7. There is a range of services and support available** such as *Core support* that assist with daily living; *Capital support* such as assistive technology or vehicle and home modifications; *Capacity building support* to assist with social and community participation, improved daily living, health and wellbeing and life choices.
- 8. Plans are reviewed at least annually.** Experience to date shows that the scheme is responsive to fluctuating and changing need.
- If you have a friend or family member who has multiple sclerosis, you can help them by encouraging them to **think about their goals and identify where they are having difficulties**. For example, it is useful to ask what does a typical week look like and what supports and services are currently received.
- 10. Spark NeuroCare** will keep you informed about NDIS developments through newsletter articles, special events and updates.

WHAT IS THE NDIS?

FACT OR FICTION: CORRECTING THE MYTHS

The scheme is means tested

No, the scheme is not means tested, eligibility is determined by a person's functional impairment not their income.

Participants are assessed in a similar way to a Workers Compensation Scheme

No, there is not an 'assessment', there is a conversation with your planner and it is a partnership to discuss and determine the supports you need.

I would be better off keeping my Mobility Allowance than losing it when I become a participant

Maybe. Your NDIS plan will include any reasonable and necessary transport related funded supports. Once you have a plan with the NDIS your Mobility Allowance will be cancelled

with Centrelink but you can keep your Health Care Card if you have one.

The scheme funds medications

No, the scheme does not fund medications. Some medications are subsidised by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

There is not enough money for the Scheme to fund supports once it is rolled out across Australia

No. The scheme is estimated to cost just over \$22 billion a year when fully operational in 2019-20. The federal government's commitment to the NDIS will be partially funded by an increase in the Medicare Levy, which is expected to raise \$20.4 billion by 2018-19. The commonwealth, state and territory governments will be contributing the remainder.

SOME PRINCIPLES OF THE SCHEME

The following principles of the scheme were developed by the Commonwealth government:

People with disability have the same right of access to services as all Australians, consistent with the goals of the National Disability Strategy which aims to maximise the potential and participation of people with disability.

The NDIS will fund personalised supports related to people's disability support needs, unless those supports are part of another service system's universal obligations — for example meeting the health, education, housing or safety needs of all Australians.

Clear funding and delivery responsibilities should provide transparency of spending.

There should be a nationally consistent approach to the supports funded by the NDIS and the basis on which NDIS engages with other systems — such as the health system.

Supports funded by NDIS will have regard for efficiency, existing statutory responsibilities and other systems' objectives and operations.

The interactions of people with disability with NDIS and other services should be seamless and where possible planning should be integrated and coordinated between systems.

NDIS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH A PROGRESSIVE NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE *(In Townsville)*

Many people living with multiple sclerosis do not realise that they may benefit from / be eligible for NDIS supports and services.

People with multiple sclerosis do not necessarily associate with the word 'disability'.

However when we talk about the impacts for example of fatigue, mobility and sensory changes

these words resonate more.

There are many Australians who do not know what the NDIS is, how it is bringing about fundamental and radical shift from the current disability sector and how it will transform the broader community to enable more inclusive communities.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Consider whether the NDIS could help you do the below — now, or in the future:

- **My partner assists me with daily tasks** – could it be for me?

- **I am working part-time** – could it be for me?
- **It is not in my current thinking** – but could it be for me?
- **I feel I am managing** – could it be for me?

HOW NDIS BECAME RELEVANT TO ME – SUE'S STORY

"I was contacted by MS in June 2014 to discuss potential interest and eligibility for NDIS.

"The conversation helped me to understand the process and provide me with information and offered support if required.

"At the time I was living well with my multiple sclerosis, working full time, well supported by my family and friends and did not feel that I required any supports or services.

"I kept the information and tools provided.

"Over the course of the year I began to experience some physical difficulties. Because my job requires me to stand for considerable lengths of time, this become more challenging. I made the decision to

reduce my work hours but as I love my job it was important for me to continue to work.

"After a conversation with the MS NDIS project officer, who worked through the MS checklist with me, I decided it was now time to approach the NDIA to determine if I am able to have funded supports, to assist to maintain and build my strength and allow me to continue to work and participate fully in family life.

"I am currently in the process of determining my eligibility for support under Early Intervention as my goal is to continue in my current employment. I believe that if I have support early on in the form of a personalised physiotherapy plan, it would assist to manage the weakness in my right side of her body, prevent further deterioration".

WHAT'S YOUR LEVEL OF INTEREST IN THE NDIS?

Based on the conversations that we've had with many people living with a progressive neurological disease in Townsville, we think most people fall into one of four categories:

3. People with little or no knowledge of the NDIS.

Our initial conversation has revolved around the basic workings of the scheme; how it's helping other people with multiple sclerosis; how it may assist them; and how to go about completing the access and eligibility process.

2. People who are aware of the scheme but don't think it relates to them

People often don't associate themselves with 'having a disability', or they think there are people out there who need the support more than them. The conversation has centred around discussions about how their progressive neurological disease is affecting their daily life and how the NDIS can assist them to have improved quality of life.

4. People who have attempted to access the scheme but have met a roadblock

Conversations are around the process. Frequently they are assisted by a specialist progressive neurological disease organisation to complete the paperwork with regular follow-ups to determine their progress through the access process.

1. People who are well informed about the scheme

These people have either made a decision that they are not in need of services at present or they have already become a Participant. Discussions with Participants identifies the types of supports/services in places; the outcomes they are achieving; and their level of satisfaction with the scheme

HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH US

If you would like to have a conversation about whether the NDIS is for you, please contact Spark NeuroCare Townsville: 07 4412 7700

For more information visit our website: www.sparkneurocare.com.au or visit the NDIS website: www.ndis.gov.au

You can also learn more about NDIS by referring to the following information sheets:

- What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)?
- Eligibility
- Real NDIS experiences