



Mainstream Interface – Aged Care

Supports the NDIS will fund for participants in residential aged care

About the NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way of providing community inclusion and individualised support for people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has been established to implement the NDIS.

What are mainstream services?

Mainstream services are the government systems providing services to the Australian public, eg. health, mental health, education, justice, housing, child protection and employment. Most people interact with a range of services throughout their lives.

Why are mainstream services important?

The NDIS aims to maximise opportunities for independence for people with disabilities, by providing access to high quality supports.

However, the NDIS alone will not meet all the needs a person has. Inclusion and access for everyone is a shared responsibility and other government systems will continue to play a critical role in supporting people with disability.

The NDIA will build relationships with mainstream service providers and the local community. This will improve their understanding about how they can interact with people with disability.

How will the NDIS support people receiving supports from the aged care sector?

To become an NDIS participant you must be under 65 years of age on the day you apply to access the Scheme. People over 65 will receive support from the aged care system.

NDIS participants can choose to purchase supports from aged care providers.

NDIS participants can choose to continue to receive supports from the NDIS after age 65, or leave the NDIS to take up an aged care place.

Younger people living in residential aged care

A number of people under the age of 65 live in aged care facilities because they have been unable to access alternative housing and care due to their high-level care needs.

The NDIS aims to support these participants to live independently in the community in other age-appropriate settings where possible.

People under 65 years of age living in residential aged care will be eligible to receive NDIS support.

This includes:

- planning and assessment support to explore alternative age-appropriate living arrangements and to make progress towards goals
- assistance with care-related costs charged by an aged care provider (excluding daily living expenses or accommodation charges)
- supports to access age-appropriate social, civic and community activities and sustain informal support networks with family, friends and carers
- therapy, including allied health supports (e.g. occupational therapy, speech pathology and physiotherapy) that has been shown to improve independence, social and economic participation in the community or to instruct delegated support workers to manage highly complex needs
- specialised equipment supports related to a person's on-going functional impairment which are not part of the residential aged care package.

How can the NDIS help people to move into the community?

Some younger people living in residential aged care may want to be supported to live elsewhere.

The NDIS can fund modifications to make a participant's home accessible. The NDIS can also assist participants to live independently with supports such as personal care to help with showering or dressing, or assistance preparing meals and cleaning.

What residential aged care supports are provided by NDIS?

Younger people in residential aged care often have complex support needs that bridge the aged care, disability, health, and housing and community services systems.

Residential aged care is designed to provide accommodation, personal and nursing care for older people. However, residential aged care also supports people with high and complex care needs when alternative care is not available.

If a person wishes to enter aged care they will be required to undergo an assessment by an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT).

Residential aged care costs

Participants may be asked to pay fees to contribute to accommodation costs, living expenses and care not funded by the NDIS.

1. Daily fees

Daily fees help cover day-to-day living costs, such as meals, cleaning, laundry, heating and cooling and care costs such as nursing and personal care:

- a basic daily fee (everyone pays)
- an income-tested fee – an additional daily fee if you receive income above a certain amount.

An income assessment is used to determine whether or not you will need to pay an income-tested fee.

2. Accommodation payments

If your assets are more than a certain amount set by the Australian Government, you might be asked to make an accommodation payment.

Accommodation payments go towards your aged care home accommodation and are determined by the Department of Human Services or the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

What happens if the NDIS doesn't fund the supports I need?

The NDIS will provide some supports for participants living in residential aged care. However, the NDIS cannot fund a support that is the responsibility of another system to provide, even if they do not provide it.

The NDIS may still be able to provide assistance to participants. For example, a Local Area Coordinator can help the participant to make contact with other providers.

What happens if a mainstream service doesn't fund the supports I need?

If a mainstream service is responsible for a support, the NDIS cannot fund that support, even if another service does not provide it. However, the NDIS may still be able to help participants, for example, a Local Area Coordinator can assist the participant to make contact and discuss their needs with appropriate providers.

What happens next?

Participants and their families will discuss their goals with an NDIS representative as part of their planning conversation.

Not all supports that assist participants to achieve their goals will require funding.

The participant's plan will include the supports the NDIS will fund as well as the government supports that are the responsibility of other services.

More information

Visit the NDIS website or call us:



www.ndis.gov.au



Telephone 1800 800 110*
8am to 5pm (local time) 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



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