

Applying for a Direct Payment

What is a direct payment?

Direct payments are one way you can choose and control the support you receive to meet your disability related needs.

Choosing direct payments means funding is transferred directly to your bank account so you can purchase the supports and services you need.

If you are receiving disability services funding, and have the capacity to self-manage your supports, this might be a good option for you.

What is the Direct Payment Agreement?

The direct payment agreement (DPA) is a standard approach to the provision of direct payments.

The DPA is a legal agreement between you and the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS).

You must develop and maintain an Individual Plan that identifies the supports you will purchase with your funding, referred to as your Individual Budget. You must meet regular reporting requirements to show you are using your funding as agreed.

Direct Payment Agreement Staged Launch

The option to choose the DPA started for some people on 1 January 2014. We are offering the DPA in this gradual way to see how this new option works in practice. By doing this, we can learn from experience and make improvements as we go.

From January 2014, participants in the following programs can apply for a DPA: Community Support Program; Southern Region Direct Payments Pilot; Services Our Way; Supported Living Fund, and Younger Onset Dementia Program.

If you have a different kind of funded support and you would like to apply for a direct payment, you can register your interest by:

- phoning 1800 605 489. If you need an interpreter to assist, you can call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 and ask them to telephone the phone number above.
- emailing livinglifemyway@facs.nsw.gov.au
- contacting your [local](#) FACS district office. Contact details are provided at the end of this fact sheet.

How do I apply?

1. Make contact with your local FACS office and ask to apply for a DPA
2. Review the [DPA Handbook](#) to make sure you understand and accept the terms of the DPA
3. Develop an Individual Plan which details how you will use your direct payments to achieve your goals
4. Participate in a safeguards assessment to consider whether you can do all the things you must do as part of the DPA and any supports you require to help you do this
5. Submit your application for the DPA (made of information gathered at steps 3 and 4 above) for approval to enter a DPA. You will be notified in writing of the outcome of your application.

You should consider obtaining legal advice about the DPA during the application process and before signing the agreement.

Where can I find more information?

You can get more information on direct payments from the [DPA Handbook](#) on our website www.adhc.nsw.gov.au. You can also contact the FACS district office in your area.

FACS District	Telephone	Email
Sydney, South Western Sydney, South Eastern Sydney	1800 000 201	information.referral@facs.nsw.gov.au
Northern Sydney, Western Sydney, Nepean Blue Mountains	(02) 9407 1650	metronorth.iri@facs.nsw.gov.au
Illawarra Shoalhaven, Southern NSW	1300 841 566	southern.iri@facs.nsw.gov.au
Murrumbidgee, Western NSW, Far West	1300 134 450	western.iri@facs.nsw.gov.au
Central Coast, Hunter New England	1300 205 268	hunter.iri@facs.nsw.gov.au
Northern NSW, Mid North Coast	1300 364 563	northern.iri@facs.nsw.gov.au

