



Every Australian Counts  
campaigning for the NDIS

# NDIS: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



# WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

## CONTACTS

Visit our website and sign up for the campaign.



[www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au)



[info@everyaustraliancounts.com.au](mailto:info@everyaustraliancounts.com.au)



[@everyaustralian](https://twitter.com/everyaustralian)



[everyaustraliancounts](https://www.facebook.com/everyaustraliancounts)

Please note this publication is subject to copyright. Individuals and organisations can request permission to reproduce the information in this booklet by contacting the Every Australian Counts campaign.

The campaign will only grant the right to reproduce this booklet on the agreement that Every Australian Counts is acknowledged as the source, and that no financial gain is derived from the reproduction of this information.

## FOR EVERYBODY

- [www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au)

The Every Australian Counts website is an online hub for the disability community that's packed with useful information, videos and news.

- [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)

The official NDIS website includes an access checker, factsheets and information to help prepare you for the NDIS.

## FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

- [www.afdo.org.au](http://www.afdo.org.au)

The Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) represents people with disability. They can connect you with advocacy support.

## FOR CARERS

- [www.carersaustralia.com.au](http://www.carersaustralia.com.au)

Carers Australia is the national peak body representing carers. Through their website you can access carer support and services.

## FOR DISABILITY SUPPORT WORKERS

- [www.ndp.org.au](http://www.ndp.org.au)

National Disability Practitioners provides resources, information, and professional development opportunities for disability support staff.

## FOR DISABILITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

- [www.nds.org.au](http://www.nds.org.au)

National Disability Services is the peak body for disability service providers. They provide resources and information to prepare disability organisations for the NDIS.

# ABOUT EVERY AUSTRALIAN COUNTS

The Every Australian Counts campaign was launched on 26 January 2011 with the objective of creating the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Australia.

The campaign represents people with disability, their families, carers, advocacy groups and disability service providers as a united voice. Campaign supporters have played a key role in the battle to transform how Australians with disability are supported.

The Every Australian Counts campaign has been extremely successful. The NDIS now has multi-partisan support, is guaranteed by law and began rolling out nationally in July 2013.

After its initial success, the Every Australian Counts Campaign is now focused on preparing people with disability for the NDIS and making sure participants have realistic and positive expectations of what the scheme will deliver.

Visit our website [www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au) It's an online hub for the disability community packed with useful resources, information, news and videos about the NDIS and broader disability issues.

## WHAT IS THE NDIS?

The existing disability system throughout Australia is inefficient, fragmented, unfair, underfunded and leaves most people with disability without the support they need. Plus, people with disability and their families don't get enough say in the type of supports they receive.

The NDIS stands for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. It's a new government policy that aims to transform the way Australia supports people with permanent and significant disability.

The foundations of the NDIS are built on two key pillars:

1. It's a universal system. The NDIS is a national program similar to Medicare. It will provide supports to all eligible Australians ensuring people with disability and their families get the support they need when they need it.
2. It's about more choice and control. The NDIS is based on the idea that people with disability and their families should be empowered to set their own goals and choose their own supports. This is achieved by giving them control over their own support budget.



In 2013 NDIS legislation was passed unanimously through Parliament.



The NDIS will more than double the number of people who receive support across Australia from 220,000 to over 460,000.



The NDIS will see disability spending increase nationally from just over \$7 billion to \$22 billion each year by 2020.

# Q

## WILL THE NDIS MEAN MORE OR LESS SUPPORT?

# A

Under the existing disability system around 220,000 Australians receive funded disability supports. Under the NDIS 460,000 people will receive funded supports, and the average support package will almost double from \$18,000 to \$35,000.

The NDIS is about making sure you have the right support in the right place at the right time to help you participate in the community and economy. If your needs change over time, you can have your plan reviewed and level of support adjusted. You will have complete choice and control over what's in your plan and who provides your supports so you can make the most of your package.

# Q

## IS THE NDIS DIAGNOSIS BASED OR NEEDS BASED?

# A

**Needs based.** The NDIS does not have a list of conditions that automatically include or exclude you from support. It's based on what you need to live a full life, and how much your disability affects your ability to carry out everyday activities. In the case of children, it's about whether a disability is likely to be permanent or result in a developmental delay.

This is a big change from the existing system where children without a diagnosis often miss out on funding or their parents are forced to lie about their disability to get support.

# Q

## AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE NDIS?

# A

Once the NDIS is fully rolled out in NSW the number of people receiving funded disability support will more than double.

To access the NDIS you must:

- have a significant and permanent disability – this includes people with psychosocial disability
- be an Australian citizen, permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen on a Protected Special Category Visa
- enter the Scheme before you turn 65.

If you're unsure whether you meet the above criteria, a good yardstick is if you're currently receiving funded support, you can expect to be eligible for the NDIS. For individuals who may benefit from early intervention, the eligibility criteria to access the NDIS is more flexible.

**2000** people  
in the Nepean and  
Blue Mountains  
areas will be a part  
of the NDIS from  
**1 July 2015**



**A**

**Q**

**WHERE IS  
THE NDIS  
AVAILABLE  
NOW?**

The NDIS is being introduced in stages throughout Australia. Right now the NDIS has trial sites operating in all States and Territories except Queensland. We are expecting the announcement of an NDIS site in Queensland soon. The first NDIS launch site in the Nepean Blue Mountains area of NSW started on 1 July 2015. From 1 July 2016 the scheme will be rolled out progressively across Australia.

As of today, the NDIS has started to provide individualised support in the following ways:

**Australian Capital Territory**

(People with disability up to age 65)

Visit the NDIS offices:

- Nature Conservation House  
Emu Bank, Belconnen
- 212 Northbourne Ave, Braddon

**New South Wales** has two sites.

**Hunter Region**

LGAs: Lake Macquarie, Maitland  
or Newcastle

(People with disability up to age 65)

Visit the NDIS offices:

- Shop 1, Hilltop Plaza, Charlestown
- 14 Auckland St, Newcastle

**Nepean Blue Mountains Region**

LGAs: Lithgow, Blue Mountains,  
Hawkesbury or Penrith  
(Children and young people with  
disability aged 0-17)

Visit the NDIS office:

- 114 Henry Street, Penrith

**Tasmania**

(Young people with disability aged  
15-25)

Visit the NDIS offices:

- 11-13 Stewart St, Devonport
- 111 Macquarie St, Hobart
- 6-18 George St, Launceston

**Victoria**

LGAs: City of Greater Geelong,  
Colac Otway Shire, Queenscliff  
Borough or Surfcoast Shire  
(People with disability up to age 65)

Visit the NDIS offices:

- 13 Connor St, Colac
- 168-170 Little Malop St, Geelong

**Northern Territory**

Barkly Region

(People with disability up to age 65)

Visit the NDIS office:

- Indigenous Co-ordination Centre  
1-9 Paterson St, Tennant Creek

**South Australia**

(Children with disability aged 0-14)

Visit the NDIS offices:

- 47-49 Elizabeth Way, Elizabeth
- 2 Sturt Reserve, Murray Bridge
- 15-31 Ayliffes Rd, St Marys,  
Adelaide

**Western Australia**

LGAs: Kalamunda, Mundaring, Swan  
(People with disability up to age 65)

Visit the NDIS office:

- 78-80 Railway Pde  
(corner Marion Street) Midland

# Q

## WHAT SUPPORTS DOES THE NDIS COVER?

# A

The types of supports you might get include therapies such as physiotherapy, mobility and technological aids and home modifications. And it's not just about covering the 'essentials' – your plan could include things such as recreational activities, developing skills like shopping or cooking and help with finding a job. No two people are exactly the same, so neither are the supports in their plan. The NDIS is about you living the life you want – not just getting by.

Some of the supports the NDIS will cover include:

- Transport assistance
- Therapies
- Guide & assistance dogs
- Case management
- Crisis/emergency support
- Personal care
- Support for community inclusion
- Respite
- Specialist employment services
- Specialist housing support
- Domestic assistance
- Aids, equipment, home & vehicle modifications

# Q

## HOW DOES THE NDIS PROCESS WORK?

# A

**Step one** to accessing the NDIS is to find out whether you are eligible. Remember, under the new system more people with disability will receive funded supports than ever before. You will need to present proof of disability such as a statement from your doctor explaining your disability and how it affects your life.

**Step two** is to start the planning process by arranging to meet an NDIS planner. The idea is to talk through your goals and together, come up with the best ways that are reasonable and necessary to meet these goals. And you don't have to do it alone – you can invite a family member or friend for moral support to go along too. Together with the planner you will develop a support package.

**Every Australian Counts tip:** Think about your planning meeting as the chance to get the most out of your NDIS support package – the more time you spend preparing, the better your plan will be. So before your meeting, think about what you'll need to live the life you want. It can also be helpful to chat to your family and carers about what's missing in your current supports, activities and plans.

# A

At your NDIS planning meetings you will come up with how to put your plan into action. Most importantly, that means coming up with the supports and services you need to live your life to the full.

This means that for the first time ever, you can decide exactly where your supports come from. This can be through the service providers you're using now, finding completely new ones, or even self-managing your supports – **it's completely up to you!**

if you disagree with an NDIS assessment or are unhappy with your support package, you have the right to ask for a review from the NDIS. You also have the right to get an advocate, friend or independent representative to help you out in this process.



**95%** of participants have rated their NDIS experience as **“good”** or **“very good”**

# Q

## I HAVE AN NDIS PLAN. WHAT NEXT?

**Every Australian Counts tip:** The NDIS was set up to give you the power to choose your own supports and service providers. You can do your own research or get help from advice and advocacy organisations. It can also be useful to talk to other people with disability, family members or carers about what works or doesn't work for them. Remember, your plan is not a one-off decision. If or when your needs change, so can your plan.

# A

The NDIS will be here for all Australians who need it (460,000 people) no later than 30 June 2019.

As for the exact timings, all Australian governments have committed to release the NDIS full roll out plans by the end of August 2015. This means that everyone in Australia will know when the NDIS is coming to their town very soon.

# Q

## WHEN WILL THE NDIS BE HERE FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS?

“

I am sometimes accused of being Dr No ... When it comes to the NDIS, I am Dr Yes.

PRIME MINISTER TONY ABBOTT

---

I do not know of a single Coalition member or senator who is not absolutely committed to the full delivery of the NDIS.

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES MITCH FIFIELD

---

NDIS – a reality that is long overdue and a testament that good government can change lives for the better.

OPPOSITION LEADER BILL SHORTEN

”

[everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://everyaustraliancounts.com.au)