

# Implementing the Living Life My Way Framework

## Information for people with disability, their families and carers in NSW.

### What is the Living Life My Way Framework?

The [Living Life My Way Framework](#) is part of [Ready Together](#) and describes how the NSW Government will increase opportunities for people with disability, their families and carers to have more choice and control while we move towards the [National Disability Insurance Scheme \(NDIS\)](#).

### What is an individualised funding arrangement?

It means that funding is set aside for you specifically and that you have more choice over how, when and where your supports are delivered. When you are approved for an individualised funding arrangement, you can choose how much control you want over the management of your funding and supports. You can choose a plan management arrangement to suit you. Possible arrangements include:

- asking Family and Community Services (FACS), Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) to make payments on your behalf to the service provider(s) you choose from our supplier directory
- choosing a person or organisation from our supplier directory to manage your funding and/or organise supports, on your behalf (a Plan Manager)
- managing your own funding by receiving payments directly into a separate bank account and organising your supports within your funding amount.

**Please note:** Not all disability funding is able to be received as a direct payment at present. Your FACS officer will be able to advise you about this.

### How will individualised funding arrangements be expanded?

FACS is working towards increasing the availability of individualised funding arrangements for people with disability where possible by:

- reviewing program guidelines so that people have a bigger range of supports to choose from
- helping people and their providers to individualise their current disability supports
- offering people the option of combining their individualised funding arrangements into one arrangement
- making more individualised funding packages available.

Implementation of the Living Life My Way Framework commenced in December last year with people who had registered their interest in an individualised funding arrangement and:

- wanted to combine their individualised funding arrangements
- were receiving supports that could be individualised and were ready to make the change.

## How do I register my interest in an individualised funding arrangement?

You can register your interest in individualising your existing disability support arrangements or combining your current individualised funding arrangements into one individualised package by:

Phone            1800 605 489

Email            [livinglifemyway@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:livinglifemyway@facs.nsw.gov.au)

Completing the [online registration form](#)

Or contacting your [local FACS office](#) and saying you wish to register your interest in an individualised funding arrangement.

You can change to an individualised funding arrangement when it suits you and change your mind later if you decide it is not right for you at this time in your life.

You do not need to register if you are happy with your current support arrangements nor if you want to make the support arrangements with your current provider(s) more flexible so they better meet your needs. You can contact your provider directly to talk about this.

If you wish, you can also wait until the NDIS is implemented in your area before you individualise your supports. Once implemented, eligible people with disability all over NSW will receive individualised support through the NDIS.

## What will happen once I am registered?

A FACS officer will contact you to:

- find out more about the disability supports you are receiving
- discuss which supports are able to be individualised and/or discuss how they may be combined
- discuss how individualised funding may meet your needs
- discuss what additional help, if any, you may need in order to individualise now or in the future
- discuss how you would like to manage your supports.

**Please note:** Not all disability supports are able to be individualised at this point. Access to an individualised funding arrangement, including the option of receiving direct payments, will depend on the kind of support you are receiving.

If you are a person receiving supports that can be individualised and you are ready to individualise some or all of your disability supports, you and a FACS officer will talk to your provider to agree on the value of your funding arrangement.

In some cases it may not be possible to individualise your supports, because to do so will have a negative impact on other people also receiving services from your service provider. If this is the case, a FACS officer will work with you to explore what options are available to you.

## What happens once my provider has agreed to a funding amount?

Once the funding amount has been agreed with your provider you:

- and a FACS officer will discuss what you would like to do differently
- will need to decide if you would like some more help to organise your supports on a day to day basis, who will deliver them (your current provider or other providers) and work out what it will cost.

## What happens if I am unable to individualise my supports at this point in time?

We have other options available if you:

- are unable to move to an individualised funding arrangement because your current supports are not able to be individualised

- prefer to build more skills before you individualise your supports
- prefer to wait until the NDIS is rolled out in your district.

The NSW Government is giving people the chance to develop their skills and confidence before moving to an individualised funding arrangement and the NDIS through eight capacity building projects. More information on the different projects is available from the [Getting Prepared](#) webpage.

If you are already using disability services, in the future you will be able to use the skills of a planner to help you review your current goals and aspirations and to think about whether your current support arrangements are working for you. More information on support planning will be provided once available.

You can also contact your provider to talk about how your current support arrangements can be made more flexible to suit your needs.

## What if I need more support than I have at the moment?

Expressing your interest in individualised funding will not provide you with additional funding. Existing eligibility and program criteria will apply for people wanting to receive new funding.

Where you are not eligible for a particular program or service, or if you are eligible but there is no place available, FACS may refer you to Ability Links NSW. Ability Links Coordinators (Linkers) can work with you and your family to help you plan your future, build your skills, and help you to grow your networks in your own community so that you can do what you want with your life outside of the traditional disability service system. A Linker may not be available in your area yet, but numbers will grow across NSW from 1 July 2014 onwards.

## Where can I find more information about all this?

Information about Living Life My Way can be found on the ADHC website:

[http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about\\_us/strategies/life\\_my\\_way](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about_us/strategies/life_my_way)

Information about *Getting Prepared* can be found on the ADHC website:

[http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about\\_us/strategies/life\\_my\\_way/getting\\_prepared](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about_us/strategies/life_my_way/getting_prepared)

To check whether Ability Links is available in your area please check the ADHC website:

[http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/inclusion\\_and\\_participation/ability\\_links\\_nsw](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/inclusion_and_participation/ability_links_nsw)