



# Getting communities ready for the NDIS

## Building community capacity

The Queensland Government is getting our state ready for the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) from 1 July 2016.

People with disability will have more opportunities, more choices and more connections. This will open doors to new possibilities in our economy and community life.

Everyone in the community has a role to play to ensure the NDIS is a success.

### This brochure outlines:

- what is community capacity
- why is community capacity important
- the importance of community champions, and how to identify and encourage them
- what role you can play.

### What is community capacity?

Community capacity refers to the resources and potential within the community which help to meet community needs.

Community capacity represents the ability of individuals and organisations. It is a holistic representation of capabilities that can include infrastructure, programs and partnerships.

The community can develop and implement change in order to further enhance its capability.

### Why is community capacity important?

Capacity building is relevant to all communities as it is a means of improving existing supports to meet future challenges and changes.

### Who are community champions?

Community champions are individuals within the community who are well respected and invested in service improvement.

When conducting change programs, it is important to identify 'community champions', as they play an important role:

- in advising what will work and what will not work within their community
- informing the change, and acting as the voice of the community when input and feedback is asked for
- spreading word about the change and garnering support
- encouraging linkages and integration with other community programs, change efforts or existing services

The success of community capacity building efforts largely rest with community change champions.

### How do we build community champions?

It is important to first identify those who you believe are community champions.

Contact should be established with these individuals and regular contact should be maintained.

These champions need to be provided with the appropriate information, and consulted throughout the change process such that they are able to provide input, and to filter information through to the community.

## What role can you play?

Building community capacity takes time and the commitment. There are several ways that you can assist. You can make a commitment to improving your own knowledge of the NDIS, and sharing your knowledge with others.

## For more information

- [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au) for further information on the NDIS and to sign-up for the NDIS e-newsletter or call the **NDIS Hotline 1800 800 110**
- [www.communities.qld.gov.au/ndis](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/ndis) for information on Queensland's NDIS preparations, the Queensland NDIS events calendar and to sign up to the Queensland NDIS e-blast
- [www.qld.gov.au/disability](http://www.qld.gov.au/disability) for information about current services for Queenslanders with disability or call **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**
- follow us on **Twitter @NDIS** or **@disabilityQLD**
- 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**