



DisabilityCare Australia, the national disability insurance scheme

Planning is well underway in Queensland to implement DisabilityCare Australia, the national disability insurance scheme (NDIS).

The June Queensland budget provided \$25 million to support the disability sector and department to grow Queensland's disability services to prepare for the NDIS. This is the first instalment of the government's additional \$868 million funds, to be delivered across six years from 2013–14 to 2018–19 — a year earlier than planned.

Since our last update, there have been a number of developments with DisabilityCare Australia. The agency has announced Geelong as its new home base, launched a public media campaign and a new website, and hosted its first national conference.

Four states are putting together the final details for their launch sites that will begin on 1 July. Launch sites in the two territories will start from July 2014.

What does the NDIS mean for Queenslanders?

When fully implemented in July 2019, the scheme will provide reasonable and necessary

support to about 97,000 Queenslanders who have severe or profound disability.

From 1 July 2016, eligible Queenslanders will start entering the scheme and will receive services and support from DisabilityCare Australia. We will progressively implement the scheme in Queensland over three years so that by 1 July 2019, all eligible Queenslanders will be covered.

We will work closely with DisabilityCare Australia to agree on the best way for eligible Queenslanders to move to the NDIS. Planning will happen with each person prior to the move to make sure their services and support continue to be delivered without any disruption.

The Queensland Government will continue to deliver services until all existing clients have moved to the NDIS.

From July 2019 DisabilityCare Australia will manage the full NDIS for all eligible Queenslanders, including all services and funding for the specialist disability and community care system.

The Queensland Government will continue to provide basic community care services to people who are not eligible for the NDIS.

June 2013

Planning for an NDIS

Two plans are being developed to ensure we are prepared:

1. a Queensland NDIS work program for 2013–2016
2. an NDIS transition plan for 2016–19.

The **Queensland NDIS work program** will detail what needs to happen for us to prepare to implement the NDIS from 1 July 2016. It will focus on building awareness about what the NDIS will mean, as well as building skills for consumers and disability providers in the new environment. This plan will be completed by December 2013 and will contribute to the transition plan.

The **NDIS transition plan** will map how Queensland and DisabilityCare Australia will deliver the NDIS from July 2016, including how and when eligible clients will enter the scheme. This will be a joint plan between the Queensland and Commonwealth governments, and DisabilityCare Australia, to be completed by December 2014.

Both plans will have a strong focus on the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and people living in rural and remote areas of Queensland.

In the meantime Queensland will continue to implement disability reforms that are consistent with NDIS design principles, including introducing greater consumer choice and control for people.

What are mainstream services?

The NDIS talks about two kinds of services:

1. specialist disability services
2. mainstream services.

Mainstream services are available for everyone. They include health, mental health, early childhood development, child protection and family support, school education, employment, housing and community infrastructure, transport, justice, higher education and vocational education and training, and aged care.

DisabilityCare Australia is working with mainstream service providers and the local community to improve their understanding of the ongoing importance of these services in people's lives.

People with a disability will use mainstream services as well as specialist disability services to improve their health, wellbeing and daily lives.

DisabilityCare Australia board and council announced

Queenslanders Sir Leo Hielscher AC and Jennifer Cullen have been appointed as members of the inaugural DisabilityCare Australia board and advisory council.

The Board will set the strategic direction for DisabilityCare Australia and play an important role in safeguarding its financial sustainability, including commissioning and considering actuarial advice in its decisions.

Bruce Bonyhady AM, has been appointed as the inaugural chair. Other members of the board are:

- Rhonda Galbally AO, Deputy Chair of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Advisory Group
- Geraldine Harwood, former CEO of Optia Incorporated, a specialist disability service in Tasmania
- Sir Leo Hielscher AC, Foundation Chairman, Queensland Treasury Corporation
- John Hill PSM, former board member of the Motor Accident Commission of South Australia
- Glenn Keys, CEO and Managing Director of Aspen Medical and a parent of a child with an intellectual disability
- Martin Laverty, CEO, Catholic Health Australia
- Fiona Payne, Foundation Co-Lead, WA Disability Health Network
- John Walsh AM, Associate Commissioner to the Productivity Commission inquiry into long-term care and support for people with disability in Australia.

A new independent advisory council will advise the board and help to ensure it has a ready

source of advice from the perspective of people with lived experience of disability.

The majority of its members are people with a disability.

Rhonda Galbally AO has been appointed as the inaugural principal member, with other members including:

- Ken Baker, Chief Executive of National Disability Services, the peak association for non-government disability services
- Dean Barton-Smith AM, Chief Executive Officer of LINK Community Transport, a non-profit organisation providing community transport solutions assisting people with disability and their carers, and past Chair of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
- Michele Castagna OAM, first person with disability to be elected to Alice Springs Shire Council
- Jennifer Cullen, Chief Executive Officer of Synapse in Queensland
- Kurt Fearnley OAM, prominent paralympian and advocate
- Lois Gatley, Carer, Ambassador for Carers Australia and Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Sylvana Mahmic, Chief Executive Officer of Pathways Early Childhood Intervention Inc
- Joan McKenna Kerr, Chief Executive Officer of the Autism Association of Western Australia
- Janet Meagher AM, current member of National Mental Health Commission
- Gerry Naughtin, Chief Executive of Mind Australia, one of the larger community based mental health NGOs in Australia
- Dale Reardon, founding President of the Blind Citizens Australia (Tasmanian) Committee and former Director of Royal Guide Dogs Association
- Michael Taggart, Inclusion Project Officer with the City of Salisbury in South Australia.

Find out more about the board and advisory council at

www.disabilitycareaustralia.gov.au/about-us/governance

National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS)

The NIIS is the other key recommendation by the Productivity Commission. It will cover the lifetime care and support needs for all Australians who experience a catastrophic injury.

A NIIS Advisory Group was set up in late 2012 to provide expert advice to the Commonwealth Government. Its members include representatives from the insurance, legal, disability and medical sectors, as well as local government and unions.

The scheme will cover four injury classes:

1. motor vehicle accidents
2. medical accidents
3. workplace accidents
4. general accidents occurring in the home or community.

The Commonwealth government is working with states and territories to implement the NIIS, with an initial focus on states with launch sites.

Minimum national benchmarks have been developed for people who are catastrophically injured in motor vehicle accidents. New South Wales and Victoria already meet these benchmarks. The other NDIS launch states – South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory – have agreed to the benchmarks. Queensland has agreed in-principle.

Work is continuing to develop benchmarks to support elements of a NIIS for other major causes of catastrophic injury.

Find out more

Services for Queenslanders with a disability

Queensland Government's disability website

www.qld.gov.au/disability

Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (Disability Services)

www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability

Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Email: disability@communities.qld.gov.au

DisabilityCare Australia

www.disabilitycareaustralia.gov.au

Phone: 1800 800 110