



Queensland to implement DisabilityCare Australia, the national disability insurance scheme (NDIS)

May 2013

On 8 May 2013, Premier Newman announced a historic agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments which committed Queensland to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (now known as DisabilityCare Australia).

The Queensland Government will start its transition to DisabilityCare Australia from 1 July 2016, with the scheme to be fully operational from 1 July 2019.

In December 2012, Premier Newman and Minister Davis committed Queensland to an NDIS when they announced an extra \$868 million over five years to 2018-19. This brought Queensland's total funding for specialist disability services to almost \$1.8 billion by 2018-19 – one of the biggest single increases in disability funding Australia has seen.

With the Commonwealth Government clarifying its position in early May 2013 on how it would fund its component of the scheme – through an increase in the Medicare levy – the Queensland Government was satisfied that Queenslanders with a disability would now have certainty.

In the lead up to the rollout of the scheme, the Queensland Government will work with both the disability sector and those who it supports to help prepare the state for a seamless transition to an NDIS.

This means we will continue to reform the way frontline disability service operations are delivered to facilitate greater consumer choice and control, as well as contestability.

The Queensland and Commonwealth Governments and DisabilityCare Australia will develop arrangements to transition all DisabilityCare Australia eligible Queenslanders into the scheme as soon as possible. It is expected this plan will be developed by the end of December 2014.

This work will be informed by the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* which was passed on 28 March 2013.

In this update

In this update, you will find information on:

- Queensland's preparations for an NDIS, including the NDIS Planning and Implementation Group
- an online forum about helping people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- the NDIS legislation and what it covers
- the Practical Design Fund projects underway.

Queensland's preparations for an NDIS

The Queensland Government has established the Queensland NDIS Planning and Implementation Group to drive the state's transition to the NDIS.

It will provide advice and input to the Queensland Government, including advising on how to prepare people with a disability, families, carers, the sector and government.

To ensure key stakeholders are represented in the planning and preparation for Queensland's transition to the scheme, the Queensland NDIS Planning and Implementation Group includes people with a disability, families and carers, disability service providers, advocacy organisations, mental health organisations and peak bodies.

The group has already met on 21 February and 7 May 2013 to discuss priority work within key areas.

New online forum

The Commonwealth Government has released an online forum at www.ndis.gov.au

This forum seeks views on how DisabilityCare Australia can best support people with disability who are from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Some challenges include getting advice and assistance from people who understand their cultural background and getting information in different languages.

Provide your feedback at <http://yoursay.ndis.gov.au/cald>

NDIS legislation

The new NDIS Act creates the framework for DisabilityCare Australia and establishes the agency to oversee transition to the scheme.

This legislation includes objects and principles for how the NDIS will operate.

It sets out the process for a person to become a participant in the scheme, how they develop a personal, goal-based plan with the agency, and how reasonable and necessary supports will be assured to participants.

It recognises that people will be able to decide for themselves how to manage their care and support, and choose how they want to manage their supports. They will also be able to access assistance from local area coordinators.

Find out more about the NDIS Act at www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2013A00020

Practical Design Fund

Seventy-three projects are currently underway across Australia through the Practical Design Fund.

The fund is part of the Commonwealth Government's commitment to support initiatives and resources that identify practical ways to prepare people with disability, their families and carers, the disability sector and workforce for the transition to an NDIS.

These practical projects range from developing tools, guidelines and a smartphone app, to undertaking research and delivering NDIS awareness sessions.

Find out more about the projects at www.ndis.gov.au/towards/projects/the-practical-design-fund/

Your Life Your Choice

The Queensland Government has already implemented the Your Life Your Choice initiative to enable people with a disability and their families to have greater choice and control over the disability services they receive. This is a key part of the planned NDIS.

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)

Queensland's plan for an NDIS

Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (Disability Services)
<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/key-projects/disabilitycare-australia-the-national-disability-insurance-scheme>
Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Your Life Your Choice self-directed support

Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (Disability Services)
www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/key-projects/your-life-your-choice
Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Email: disability@communities.qld.gov.au

DisabilityCare Australia

www.ndis.gov.au
Phone: 1800 800 110
Email: NDISenquiries@fahcsia.gov.au