



The National Disability Insurance Scheme update

Queensland will ensure its disability sector—people with disability, families, carers, service providers and the broader community—is well positioned to transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) from July 2016.

From 20 September 2013 the National Disability Insurance Agency is the new name for DisabilityCare Australia. So far representatives from the Agency have visited Queensland twice, with regular meetings planned.

In mid-August 2013 Queensland hosted a visit from Agency representatives, including Chief Executive Officer David Bowen, NDIS Board Chair Bruce Bonyhady AM and Queensland Board member Sir Leo Hielscher AC, as well as General Manager Launch Implementation Division Margaret Carmody.

That visit saw the start of discussions to develop the joint NDIS transition plan for 2016–19 and to hear about the early experiences from the four NDIS launch sites in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

We hosted a second visit for two days in mid-September with Margaret Carmody and General

Manager, National Transition Office, Cath Halbert.

We explained Queensland's priorities and talked about our unique characteristics — the distances between towns and services, the challenges faced by rural and remote locations, and the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as well as our highly-populated culturally and linguistically diverse communities along the coast.

We described a state that needs a diverse range of approaches to successfully deliver services.

Agency officers shared some early learnings from the launch sites that will inform our planning for the next three years, particularly focussing on supporting people to take a different approach to planning under the NDIS to focus on their goals and aspirations, and developing their capacity to choose and purchase services.

The launch feedback emphasised that service providers may require support as they reconsider their business models to ensure they are sustainable in a more open market under the NDIS.

November 2013

Queensland Disability Conference 2014

People in the disability sector will be able to hear first-hand about Queensland's plans for how the NDIS will be rolled out at the state conference in Brisbane on Monday and Tuesday, 24 and 25 March 2014.

We will let you know more as the conference program and registration details become available over the coming months.

Planning in Queensland

Detailed planning has started to ensure individuals, communities and the sector are ready to transition to the NDIS.

Our planning will focus on three areas:

- people with disability, families, carers, service providers and the broader community
- the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
- mainstream government service providers, such as the Departments of Health, Education, Housing, and Transport and Main Roads.

Queensland's planning will include:

- working to better support people with disability to transition to the NDIS, particularly about their readiness to identify goals and plan for their future
- agreeing on how and when eligible participants will enter the scheme during the transition phase between 2016 and 2019 – which people, type of disability, age and location, and in which order and when
- supporting disability service providers to reconsider their business models to be able to operate in a competitive, consumer driven market
- encouraging more people with disability to commence individual funding arrangements for services rather than through block funding
- individualising disability payments for individual support
- changing operating models to handle different funding models

- making a concerted effort to increase services offered in rural and remote areas
- transitioning and increasing skills in the Queensland disability workforce, where possible
- mapping where Queensland government services interface with mainstream services and which services Queensland will continue to deliver.

The department has also started planning to transition its Accommodation Support and Respite Services (AS&RS) to non-government service providers. This vital and fundamental step will take place in the lead up to July 2016, when Queensland begins its transition to the NDIS.

The Queensland Government will work with the Australian Government and the National Disability Insurance Agency to agree on how and when Queenslanders will move to the NDIS as part of its joint NDIS transition plan for 2016–19, to be developed by December 2014.

Launch site updates

NDIS launches began in four states from 1 July 2013. Early experiences are that the number of people presenting for assessment is double the expected number and that people are also taking longer in the planning phase than originally anticipated.

Each launch site has taken a different approach to how people move to the new scheme:

- Victoria**
 - launch site: Barwon area: City of Greater Geelong, the Colac-Otaay Shire, the Borough of Queenscliffe and the Surf Coast Shire
 - applies to people aged 0–65 years
 - approach: a balance of new and existing clients transitioning on a monthly basis based on the programs they receive
- South Australia**
 - launch site: state wide
 - applies to children 0–14 years
 - staggered entry based on age groups. In the first year children from birth to five years will enter the scheme

- **New South Wales**
 - launch site: Hunter region: New Castle City, Lake Macquarie City and Maitland City
 - applies to people aged 0–65 years
 - approach: people will enter by local government area and within each area, people will enter on a phased, service provider basis
- **Tasmania**
 - launch site: state wide
 - applies to young people aged 15–24 years
 - approach: balance of participants with varying support needs, with existing and new participants entering the scheme on a quarterly basis.

Recently **Western Australia** agreed to a two-year launch of the NDIS from 1 July 2014 in the Perth Hills area for people living in the Kalamunda, Mundaring and Swan local government areas. They will also operate two sites under the Western Australian My Way initiative from July 2014 for people in the Lower South West area and from July 2015 for people in the Cockburn-Kwinana area.

National conference proceedings and practical design fund projects available

You can access the conference program and view the video recordings, transcripts and PowerPoint presentations from the plenary and concurrent sessions delivered as part of the June 2013 national NDIS conference in Melbourne at www.ndis.gov.au/document/248

You can also find a great range of tools and resources developed as part of the 73 Practical Design Fund projects at www.ndis.gov.au/document/204

Launch site participants

Under the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (Cwlth), a person must have been living in one of the launch locations on 1 July 2013 to be able to access the scheme, as well as meeting the other access requirements, such as age.

If people move to a launch site solely because they intend to seek access to the NDIS, they will

not be eligible to access supports through the scheme.

If you live in Queensland, the NDIS will be introduced from 1 July 2016. Our detailed planning will ensure that people will have a smooth transition to the new scheme.

In the meantime, people will continue to receive their existing supports and services.

Find out more

Services for Queenslanders with 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

National Disability Insurance Agency

www.ndis.gov.au
 Phone: 1800 800 110
 Sign up to receive regular email updates at www.ndis.gov.au/sign-updates