

Queensland Government Joint Action Plan – Transition of long-stay younger people with disability from Queensland public health facilities

What is the Joint Action Plan?

The Joint Action Plan is an agreement between the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Queensland Health and the Department of Housing and Public Works, to work together to support younger people with disability who are long-stay patients in Queensland public health facilities to move to accommodation in the community, where possible until mid-2019.

The Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors leads and coordinates the implementation of the Joint Action Plan.

The plan supports preparation for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as it rolls out across Queensland until June 2019.

Who does it assist?

The Joint Action Plan assists people with disability, aged 18 to 65 years, who have been in public health facilities for an extended period because they have not been able to access more appropriate disability, health and housing supports in the community.

People who are long-stay patients in public hospitals, rehabilitation, mental health and residential facilities, multipurpose health services, and public residential aged care settings are also included.

Queensland Health supports the transition process by identifying people who may be able to transition, and their health needs.

People also need to meet eligibility requirements for disability services and have appropriate housing sourced, if required.

How does it happen?

The Joint Action Plan provides a coordinated and consistent approach to assessment and planning for long-stay younger people with disability to transition to community living.

This means staff from the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Queensland Health and Department of Housing and Public Works work with individuals, families, carers and substitute decision makers to understand their needs and preferences and develop a plan for the future that aims to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Individuals and their representatives, including advocates, are actively involved in the assessment, planning and decision-making for their future living arrangements. Person-centered planning through the Joint Action Plan also helps people and their families prepare for the NDIS in Queensland.

Progress and resources

People are supported to transition to community living as resources become available.

Since 2013, there have been a total of 147 long-stay younger people with disability supported by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors to transition to community living through the Joint Action Plan. A total of \$15.5 million has been allocated in operational funding to support their community living.

A total of \$7.3 million of capital funding has been allocated to non-government organisations by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors to contribute to the construction of accessible, sustainable and affordable housing for people with high physical and medical support needs.

In 2017-18, an additional \$1 million is available to assist at least 10-12 more people to transition to community living.

There has been a particular focus with this funding on supporting people to transition from public acute hospital and rehabilitation settings. However, people are being assisted to transition from all types of facilities that meet the scope of the Joint Action Plan.

Some individuals have been able to return to live in their own housing with appropriate supports and other individuals need assistance to explore other suitable housing options.

The Department of Housing and Public Works will work with the individual and their supports to determine the most suitable, appropriate and timely response to meet their identified housing need. This may include assistance to help people access the private market including through bond loans and rental grants.

Planning is in progress for long-stay younger people with disability and their families to prepare for the NDIS as it rolls out across Queensland by June 2019.

Next steps

In 2017-18 the Queensland Government is undertaking the following activities to continue implementation of the Joint Action Plan:

- supporting 10-12 people with disability who have been allocated funding to move from public health facilities to community living
- supporting up to 10 people with disability with high physical support needs to transition from public health facilities and residential aged care into newly constructed, fully accessible accommodation

- continue to support Local Network Groups to assist in local collaboration between the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, Queensland Health and Department of Housing and Public Works in implementing the Joint Action Plan
- continue with the planning across Queensland with long-stay younger people with disability in public health facilities, to help them think about and plan for a different life in the community, in preparation for the NDIS.

More information

For further information on the Joint Action Plan call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or email the Centre of Excellence for Clinical Innovation and Behaviour Support at DSSNR_CenExcelAdmin@Communities.qld.gov.au

You can also:

- visit www.ndis.gov.au for further information on the NDIS and to sign-up for the NDIS eNewsletter or call the NDIS Hotline on 1800 800 110
- for information on Queensland's NDIS preparations, the Queensland NDIS events calendar and to sign up to the Queensland NDIS e-blast visit www.communities.qld.gov.au/ndis
- visit 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 @disabilityQLD
- for people with hearing or speech loss call TTY 1800 555 677
- speak and listen call 1800 555 727
- for people who need help with English call TIS 131 450.