

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Fact Sheet 1 - Information for Schools

The NDIS will change the way people with disability access disability support services. Students who are NDIS participants and their families will benefit from school staff understanding these changes.

What is the NDIS?

The NDIS is a landmark social and economic reform. It provides a national solution to delivering effective disability support systems.

Through the NDIS, people with disability will be able to access 'reasonable and necessary' supports to achieve their personal goals. The NDIS will give participants greater choice and control over the disability supports they need and how they are delivered.

The NDIS is available to people between 0 and 65 years

A person with disability will be eligible for the NDIS if they have a permanent impairment that substantially reduces their ability to perform tasks or actions in all areas of daily living, and affects their capacity for social and economic participation. It will include children with significant disabilities. Detailed information on eligibility can be found on the Commonwealth NDIS website (www.ndis.gov.au).

Schools are not required to undertake new assessments or draft new reports to support a new NDIS application or assessment. However, schools can assist families by providing any available, relevant assessments and documents that can support the family's discussions with the NDIA about their child's eligibility and support plan, where requested.

The NDIS does not replace the obligations of schools to students with disability

The Disability Standards for Education 2005 continue to apply to schools with the introduction of the NDIS. Schools

remain responsible for providing reasonable adjustments (personalised learning and support) for students with disability, to enable them to fully participate in education.

The NDIS will be responsible for the functional disability supports that children need in any setting or that specifically address their disability needs. For example, equipment that supports mobility, communication aids and specialist therapy for disability.

There will be some overlap between the functional disability supports that the NDIS provides for children and the personalised learning and support provided by schools. NSW and the Commonwealth Governments are working together to determine how this overlap of responsibilities is managed.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) will deliver the NDIS

The NDIA is a national, independent statutory authority. It is responsible for determining individual eligibility for the scheme and helping people get ready to participate in the scheme. Once a person is deemed eligible, the NDIA will develop an individualised plan of supports for that participant according to their personal goals and aspirations.

The NDIA currently has offices in Newcastle and Penrith. The NDIS website (www.ndis.gov.au) is a good source of information on the NDIA.

The NDIS will provide functional disability supports

The NDIS will fund supports that address the functional impact of disability on a child's daily living activities. This

includes mobility aids and equipment such as wheelchairs, communication equipment such as hearing aids, home modifications, vehicle modifications, early intervention for disability, support with self-care and support for participation in the community.

The NDIS will also provide support to families and carers where associated with managing their child's disability. These supports will enable families and carers to maintain their caring role and may include help with managing their child's NDIS plan or additional personal care support.

Students and their families can discuss NDIS support plans with their school

Schools work closely with parents in planning reasonable adjustments for students. School staff can ask, as part of this process, whether students are receiving support from the NDIS. Many parents already involved with the NDIS have shown a willingness to share information about their child's NDIS support plans with their school.

Students and parents are not obliged to inform the school whether they are receiving NDIS support. Privacy legislation prohibits the NDIA from sharing any participant details with the Department unless the participant agrees.

The NDIS provides the opportunity to develop wrap-around support for students

The development and implementation of an NDIS support plan provides a good opportunity to ensure school and non-school disability supports complement each other and support each child's progress. Parents should be encouraged to talk to the school about their child's NDIS planning process and their planning around the type of support they access and how it is arranged.

NDIS funded supports will change as children grow and develop and as they move between stages of schooling. Individual NDIS support plans are reviewed regularly. Plan reviews provide additional opportunities for schools to work with students and their parents and carers to ensure that NDIS and school supports continue to complement each other and benefit the student.

NDIS-funded therapy provision

The NDIS will be responsible for funding specialist therapy supports previously funded by NSW Ageing Disability and Home Care. Where therapy is included in an NDIS plan, families will choose therapy services from a range of non-government and private providers.

Providers, whose therapy services are accessed through an NDIS plan, may seek to deliver their services to

students during school time or on school premises. Schools may choose to facilitate this delivery where it integrates with the delivery of curriculum and educational supports as parts of reasonable adjustment for the student, taking account of the operational requirements and educational objectives and priorities of the school.

It remains at the principal's discretion to decide what services are delivered in schools or on school grounds, taking into consideration the educational needs and priorities for students and the school.

The NDIS is rolling out progressively in NSW

The NDIS commenced in NSW in July 2013 in a trial area centred in the Hunter region. The trial expanded from the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) to the Lake Macquarie LGA in July 2014 and Maitland LGA in July 2015.

On 1 July 2015, rollout of the NDIS started for children aged 0 to 17 years living in the Penrith, Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Hawkesbury LGAs (the Nepean Blue Mountains District).

From 1 July 2016, the NDIS will be implemented progressively across the rest of the state. NSW is committed to completing transition to the full scheme of the NDIS by July 2018.

Further information about the transition to the NDIS can be found on the NSW Government NDIS website: www.ndis.nsw.gov.au.

Transition of people into the NDIS is carefully planned

The NSW and the Commonwealth Governments will transition supports for people with disability to the NDIS in an organised way. This schedule will include specific transition planning for children.

People currently receiving disability services funded by NSW Ageing Disability and Home Care will continue to do so until they are transitioned to the NDIS.

The NDIA will provide direct support to help participants and their families and carers identified through this process to get ready for the NDIS.

The NDIS supports broad community engagement

The NDIS supports broader engagement of people with disability in both specialist disability and mainstream service systems. This includes helping children and their families to identify supports available through services

provided to all people in the community, through informal family and community supports, as well as through specialist disability support.

More information

The NDIA website:

www.ndis.gov.au

The NSW Government NDIS website:

www.ndis.nsw.gov.au

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<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/programs/disability.php>

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