

About the NDIS in Queensland

The best source of information about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the NDIS website - www.ndis.gov.au

When will the NDIS be available in Queensland?

Queensland's phased transition will occur on a geographic basis, defined by Local Government Area (LGA) boundaries. Queenslanders will progressively enter the scheme as follows:

Between July 2016 to June 2017:

- Townsville, Hinchinbrook, Burdekin, west to Mount Isa, and up to the gulf
- Mackay, Isaac and Whitsundays
- Toowoomba and west to the borders

Between July 2017 to June 2018:

- Ipswich, Lockyer, Scenic Rim and Somerset
- Bundaberg
- Rockhampton, Gladstone and west to the borders

Between July 2018 to June 2019:

- Logan and Redlands
- Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Tablelands, Croydon, Etheridge, Cape York and Torres Strait
- Brisbane suburbs north of Brisbane River
- Brisbane suburbs south of Brisbane River
- Fraser Coast, North Burnett, South Burnett and Cherbourg
- Gold Coast and Hinterland
- Moreton Bay including Strathpine and Caboolture
- Sunshine Coast, Noosa and Gympie.

There is also an Early Launch of the NDIS in parts of Queensland from January 2016:

- children and young people aged under 18 years in Townsville and Charters Towers, and all eligible people with disability on Palm Island will be the first Queenslanders with disability to access the NDIS as part of the early launch.

Why is the NDIS rolling out in Queensland in this way?

- The rollout of the NDIS in Queensland is determined by the Bilateral Agreement between the Queensland Government and the Commonwealth Government, which details the different aspects of Queensland's transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- The NDIS is being introduced in stages according to the funding arrangements in the Bilateral Agreement.
- Rolling out the NDIS by LGA location minimises confusion and ensures that Queenslanders experience a smooth transition. It also allows for the number of people to transition to the NDIS each year to match the funding available in each of those years.
- The Queensland Government investigated a number of potential first launch site options and the combination of Townsville, Charters Towers and Palm Island offered the best opportunity to test the rollout processes unique to Queensland - a regional centre, a rural location and an Indigenous community. Lessons from the first launch will then inform future rollouts across Queensland.

Do I need to be assessed by the Queensland Government to access the NDIS?

No.

- People do not need to be registered with or assessed by Disability Services or any other Queensland Government department to participate in the NDIS.

Will my disability supports from the Queensland Government or my funded service provider continue until I enter the NDIS?

Yes.

- People will continue to receive the Queensland Government funded disability services they currently receive until the NDIS is fully introduced in their location.
- When the NDIS is introduced in each location, eligible participants will move to the NDIS and have choice and control over their supports and services.
- The Queensland Government will work with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), service providers and people with disability, their families and carers to ensure that disability supports and services continue during the NDIS transition.
- People who currently receive services funded by the Queensland Government, and who may not be eligible for the NDIS, will continue to be supported by the Queensland Government. These arrangements are being discussed between the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments.

What if I need disability support now but the NDIS has not yet rolled out to my area?

You can request support from Disability Services in any of the below ways:

Online

- You can make a request for assistance [www.qld.gov.au/disability/adults/requesting-specialist-support-form/person-with-disability.html].

By phone

- Contact your local service centre and make a request over the phone with an intake officer. If you're unsure which service centre is closest, call 13 QGOV (13 74 68), or for TTY users phone 133 677, and a customer service adviser will help.

In person

- You can go in person to your local service centre. If you're unsure which service centre is closest, call 13 QGOV (13 74 68), or for TTY users phone 133 677, and a customer service adviser will help.

Who will be eligible for the NDIS?

People may be eligible for the NDIS if they have a permanent disability that significantly affects their ability to take part in everyday activities.

In addition, they must:

- be aged under 65 years when they first access the NDIS
- live in Australia
- be an Australian citizen, or
- hold a permanent Visa or
- hold a Protected Special Category Visa.

The NDIS Access checklist on the NDIS website can help you understand if you may meet the access requirements to become a participant in the NDIS. You can find the NDIS Access checklist at www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-access-checklist

People **do not** need to be registered with Disability Services, or any other Queensland Government department, to participate in the NDIS.

What if I have a disability but I do not meet the access requirements for the NDIS?

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is able to connect you with community and mainstream supports to help you pursue your goals and aspirations, and participate in daily life.

You will continue to have access to mainstream services, such as health, education, transport and housing.

There will be continuity of support provisions if you are not eligible for the NDIS and currently receive disability supports from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

What will change under the NDIS?

The NDIS will change the way disability supports are funded and delivered. The NDIS is administered by one national agency, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), rather than multiple state-based disability service systems. Supports and services to help a person achieve their goals will be listed on their NDIS plan.

People will:

- be funded for the reasonable and necessary supports they need to participate in daily life
- have choice and control over how, when and where their supports are provided
- be able to access a broader range of mainstream and community supports, as well as traditional disability supports.

People do not need to be registered with Disability Services, or any other Queensland Government department, to participate in the NDIS.

What is the Queensland Government doing to get Queensland ready?

The Queensland Government is working closely with the Commonwealth Government and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) on the implementation of the NDIS in Queensland.

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services is coordinating the transition to the NDIS with other Queensland Government departments that support Queenslanders with disability in areas such as health, education, transport and housing.

How is the Queensland Government helping people with disability to prepare?

The Queensland Government is funding ten organisations as part of the Participant Readiness initiative to deliver workshops, resources and activities to assist people with disability, their families and carers understand the changes and opportunities offered by the NDIS.

People can find out what activities and resources are available as well as where and when activities are scheduled across Queensland on our online NDIS events calendar at www.communities.qld.gov.au/ndis – The calendar can be filtered by region and audience to easily find local events.

How is the Queensland Government helping to prepare service providers?

By funding resources to help them prepare their businesses and make the most of the growth opportunities arising from the NDIS.

The Queensland and Commonwealth Governments have funded a number of resources to assist providers to understand and respond to the new NDIS market environment, including:

- an online business development package (available at www.communitydoor.org.au)
- a suite of tools and resources to help service providers to respond to changing consumer demand in the NDIS
- a resource kit to help small rural and remote, and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop local approaches to delivering supports under the NDIS (available later in 2015).

Under the NDIS the number of Queenslanders receiving disability supports is expected to grow to more than 90,000 by 2019. This is expected to create up to 13,000 additional jobs and inject approximately \$4 billion per year into the Queensland economy.

What will the NDIS transition mean for Queensland workers?

The NDIS is expected to create more jobs in Queensland.

- The increase in demand and available options for people with disability under the NDIS will require significant growth in the number of workers across Queensland and also in the range of skills and abilities people need to meet the new demand for services, and people's needs and expectations.
- The NDIS is expected to create up to 13,000 additional jobs in Queensland when it is fully implemented in 2019.
- Jobs growth is expected to include a range of new roles including, support workers, allied health professionals, support coordinators, managers and administrators, local area coordinators, planners and assessors, including in regional and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- The NDIS will change the way many employees work in various ways, depending on their roles and the types of supports and services NDIS participants seek as the NDIS rolls out.

How do I find out more information?

- **www.ndis.gov.au** for further information on the NDIS and to sign-up for the NDIS e-newsletter or call the NDIS Hotline on 1800 800 110
- **www.communities.qld.gov.au/ndis** for information on Queensland's NDIS preparations, the Queensland NDIS events calendar and to sign up to the Queensland NDIS e-blast
- **www.qld.gov.au/disability** or call **13 QGOV (13 74 68)** for information about current services for Queenslanders with disability
- follow us on **Twitter @NDIS** and **@disabilityQLD**
- for people with hearing or speech loss **TTY 1800 555 677**
- speak and listen **1800 555 727**
- for people who need help with English **TIS 131 450**