



Information for providers

Young Carers Respite Support and Information Services Programme (Young Carers) *June 2016*

Transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme

The gradual introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has begun, and will continue on a large scale from 1 July 2016.

The transition to the NDIS will occur over a number of years. People will gain access to the scheme at different times, depending on where they live and how old they are. For start dates in each state and territory visit the NDIS website at www.ndis.gov.au

Changes to Commonwealth disability programmes

Over the next three years, funding for a range of Commonwealth funded disability programmes will transition to the NDIS.

The direct respite component of the Young Carers Respite Support and Information Services Programme (Young Carers) is transitioning to the NDIS. For providers, this will mean a gradual redirection in programme funding for direct respite services, as more clients become participants in the NDIS. Providers are encouraged to register to deliver services under the NDIS as it commences in your area.

After 1 July 2016, if you provide direct respite services to a person caring for a NDIS participant you will need to claim the cost of providing that service from the NDIS. Find out more at www.ndis.gov.au/providers.

There will be significant opportunities for providers under the NDIS. In exercising choice and control, NDIS participants will be looking for quality providers that deliver the services they want, and in a format that best meets their needs.

Gradual transition of funding

The Department of Social Services has finalised three-year funding offers for Young Carers, to commence on 1 July 2016. The three-year funding offer reflects the gradual transition of direct respite funding to the NDIS. Funding for indirect respite and information, advice and referral services offered under the Young Carers programme is not transitioning.

The funding allocations take into account the NDIS start dates for your service locations, and recognises the need for programme funding for the young carer to be maintained until

the person they care for has successfully gained access to the NDIS and has a NDIS plan in place.

Until the NDIS has commenced in your area, block funding can continue to be used to provide both direct and indirect services as currently provided under the Young Carers programme.

Once the NDIS commences in your area, any funding offered can be used to provide educational support services (formerly indirect respite) to students, up to and including 18 years of age, who have a significant caring role. Where direct respite is required, funding can only be used to provide these services until the person receiving care has an approved NDIS plan in place.

By the end of June 2019, all people with a disability who have significant care requirements are expected to have transitioned to the NDIS.

Young Carers and the NDIS

What is transitioning to the NDIS?

As mentioned above, funding for only the direct respite element of Young Carers is gradually being redirected to the NDIS. This funding covers the direct respite services delivered by Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres (CRCCs).

Direct respite supports currently provided under this programme will not necessarily be directly replicated by the NDIS. They may take the form of different supports or services, depending on the needs and decisions of each NDIS participant.

What are direct respite services?

Direct respite includes types of assistance where the primary purpose is meeting the needs of carers by providing a break from their caring responsibilities. A service or multiple services, are arranged, booked or purchased to ensure the carer has a substitute available for the person to whom they normally provide care.

What is not transitioning to the NDIS?

Two elements of Young Carers are not transitioning to the NDIS. These are the funding for educational support services (formerly indirect respite) provided by CRCCs, and the funding provided to Carers Australia to deliver information, advice and referral services.

The Department of Social Services will continue to fund educational support and information, advice and referral services for students who have a significant caring role. How these supports are delivered into the future will be determined in light of other reforms taking place for carers.

Most people who have a disability, and have a significant need for care, are expected to become participants of the NDIS, once the scheme begins in their region.

NDIS participants are able to incorporate one-off, short-term and/or emergency (immediate), unplanned respite type supports into their plans.

Advising your clients

Young Carer clients should be encouraged to assist the people they care for to check their expected access online via the NDIS Access Checklist at www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-access-checklist.

The NDIS website contains advice, information and resources to help people get started on their NDIS journey. See www.ndis.gov.au.

As a provider, you will have an interest in helping young carers to guide their care recipients through the transition.

This is also a requirement of your grant agreement.

You will be funded to maintain direct respite services for Young Carers clients until the person they care for has submitted an access request form to the NDIS and has an individual support plan in place.

Resources for providers

NDIS website

The provider section of the NDIS website has information, advice and links for providers who want to work under the scheme.

Visit www.ndis.gov.au/providers

The NDIS website also contains resources for families and carers, recognising them as important partners in the support of people with disability. You may wish to refer your clients to this section of the NDIS website.

Visit www.ndis.gov.au/families-carers

NDIS Ready communication toolkit

The 'NDIS Ready' section of the NDIS website includes a communication toolkit which provides individuals and organisations with communication materials that can help spread the word about the NDIS across a range of communications channels, including websites, intranets, social media platforms and electronic and printed newsletters.

These resources may help you communicate with your clients about the scheme.

Visit www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-ready

NDIS Information Sessions

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is running information sessions across the country for providers and participants.

There are opportunities to learn more about the NDIS, including the ways that your clients can apply to and access the scheme, and what other supports will be available.

For upcoming sessions in your area visit www.ndis.gov.au/news/events

NDIS Provider Portal

Providers who wish to deliver services to NDIS participants need to register on the NDIS Provider Portal. A new version of the NDIS Provider Portal will be launched on 1 July 2016. It will be called **myplace**.

Access to myplace is via PRODA, an online authentication system designed to provide secure access to specific government services and is required to access the new Provider Portal. This replaces the previously used authentication process, AUSkey.

Whether you are new to the NDIS, or already registered to do business, you will need to sign up to **myplace** before 1 July.

Visit www.ndis.gov.au/providers/registering-provider/accessing-new-provider-portal

NDIS Provider Toolkit

This practical self-assessment tool helps providers check their readiness for the NDIS, and work out where they may need to enhance their capabilities. The toolkit is free for providers to use. It has been developed by National Disability Services (NDS) with funding from the Australian Government Sector Development Fund.

Visit www.nds.org.au/resources/ndis-provider-toolkit

Sector Development Fund projects

Through the Commonwealth's Sector Development Fund, a number of not for profit organisations have been funded to help the disability services sector get ready for the NDIS. The projects focus on developing the sector as a whole, including people with disability, their families, carers and providers.

Information about completed projects is available on the NDIS web site. The resources include practice change and service delivery resources, operational tools, workforce planning resources and change management resources.

Visit www.ndis.gov.au/people-disability/sector-development-fund/sdf-projects

Costing and Pricing advice

Organisations will need to establish, and operate under, a market based, competitive, fee-for-service model prior to the NDIS commencing in their region.

This practical Costing and Pricing Learning Program aims to increase costing and pricing skills for disability service providers across Australia. It has been developed by National Disability Services (NDS) and the Curtin University Not-for-profit Initiative.

Visit www.nds.org.au/resources/costing-pricing-learning-program