

Disability Services Commission

Fact sheet for individuals and families: Changes to the funding of recreation services

Background

The Disability Services Commission (the Commission) is making changes to the way people with disability receive their recreation services. The Commission is committed to and recognises that recreation is an important way to support a good life and assist people with disability to achieve their goals.

For a number of years, the Commission has been moving towards individualised planning and funding. Individualised planning is a process that supports people with disability to create a plan for their future, based on current and anticipated needs, and to set goals outlining the best way to get there.

The Commission's move to individualised funding and planning is consistent with the principles and practices of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), including that services provided to individuals are deemed reasonable and necessary.

So what is changing?

Many people with disability receive recreation services through disability sector organisations (DSO). Until now, the Commission has directly funded DSOs for those services. This funding process is now changing.

From 1 July 2016 and rolling out over the next 12 months, instead of this funding being provided directly to the DSO, the Commission will provide funding based on the services outlined in an individual's plan (see below). People will then be able to choose which DSO they would like to receive their recreation services from – either their current DSO or another service provider.

To access recreation services, people need to develop an individual plan. This is based on a person's unique needs, their goals for the future and the types of supports and services required to support them to achieve their goals. People with disability and, if they wish, their families and carers need to work with a Commission Local Coordinator (Coordinator) to develop their plan.

Recreation activities can be identified in the individual plan as requiring funding if the activities are deemed reasonable and necessary and can then be endorsed by the person's Coordinator. Funding is approved for a designated period and is reviewed to ensure it continues to support the person to achieve the goals outlined in their individual plan.

What happens next?

To begin with, there won't be any change to the delivery of people's recreation services. As part of the future review process, recreation support will be viewed as part of a more holistic individual plan that is consistent with the principles of reasonable and necessary.

For people already connected to a Coordinator, the recreation service they receive from their DSO will be included in their individual plan when it is reviewed. For those not connected to a Coordinator, an individual plan will be developed when they make contact with a Coordinator.

Your DSO will notify you if your funding has been individualised. If you are already connected to a Coordinator you will need to contact this person – or the Coordinator may contact you. People who do not have a Coordinator can find out how to arrange this by contacting the Commission on 9426 9200.

The move to individualising recreation services will take place over time. If you are unsure if your funding is affected by the changes please contact your DSO.

Frequently asked questions

Is the Commission cutting funding for recreation services?

No, funding for disability recreation services is not being cut. Instead, this funding is being distributed in a different way. Individualised funding enables people to choose which DSO they would like to provide their recreation services and which recreation activities they would like to undertake.

Is the Commission reducing recreation services to people with disability?

No, the Commission is not reducing recreation services to people with disability. By individualising recreation funding, the Commission aims to ensure that people with disability enjoy choice and control over their recreation services.

How will I know if I have individualised funding?

Your DSO or Coordinator will let you know if your recreation funding has been individualised. If it has, you will need to follow the steps outlined above.

What if my funding is not individualised?

You will still be able to access the same level of recreation service you are currently accessing from your DSO. Over time your funding will become individualised once it is determined you are eligible for Commission services. You do not need to do anything until advised by your DSO or Coordinator.

If I am not eligible for Commission funding do I lose my recreation service?

The Commission will continue working with DSOs to ensure people who are not currently connected to the Commission continue to receive recreation services until 30 June 2017. This will give people time to plan for the future.

Can my child access recreation services during school hours?

In line with the principles of NDIS, the Commission cannot fund recreation services during school hours. You may wish discuss alternative arrangements with your DSO, school or your Coordinator when developing your child's individual plan.