

Public education
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NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME IMPLEMENTATION

FOR SCHOOLS



FACT SHEET: INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

What is the NDIS?

The NDIS is a landmark social and economic reform that is changing the way people with disability access disability support services.

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 life-long 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 can assist families where requested by providing relevant assessments and documents that can support a family's discussions with the NDIS about their child's eligibility and support plan.

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

The Disability Standards for Education 2005 continue to apply to schools independently of 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 including schools. 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. The Western Australia and the Commonwealth Governments are working together to determine how this overlap of responsibilities is managed.

The NDIS is rolling out progressively in Western Australia

In December 2017, the Commonwealth and Western Australian governments announced a new bilateral agreement which will see WA join the nationally-delivered National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).



Department of
Education



From 1 July 2018, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) will assume responsibility for the delivery of the NDIS in Western Australia.

The NDIS will continue to be implemented on a geographic basis by NDIA and will be fully rolled out across WA by 2020.

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 a 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 considerations prohibit the NDIS 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 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 planning supports continue to complement each other.

NDIS-funded therapy provision

The NDIS will be responsible for funding specialist therapy supports. 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 therapy planning is consistent and directly related to the outcomes established in the student's educational program.

However, 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 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.

Discover more:

W:

<http://det.wa.edu.au/studentsupport/detcms/navigation/disability-services-and-support/>

E:

disabilityservicesandsupport.admin@education.wa.edu.au

