



# Individuals, Families, Carers Information sheet 2B

Relevant for those within an area that has started transition to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

## Australia-wide NDIS:

- the roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Western Australia, operated by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).
- The NDIA commenced delivering the NDIS in WA with a trial site in the Perth Hills area. From 1 July 2018, the NDIA took responsibility for the NDIS in WA and is rolling this out on a geographical basis, in line with the NDIS Schedule: Western Australia. <http://disability.wa.gov.au/Global/Publications/NDIS/NDIS-Landing-Page/NDIS-transition-schedule-Western-Australia.pdf>

## I am already connected with Local Coordination, what does this change mean for me?

From 1 July 2018, the Australia-wide NDIS will begin to be available to eligible individuals based on where they live.

The Department of Communities, Disability Services (Communities) has provided contact information to the NDIA of people connected with Local Coordination. If you are connected to Local Coordination, you will be contacted by the NDIA to develop your plan during the transition period.

Your Local Coordinator will continue to be your main point of contact until the planning process with the NDIA has been completed and your NDIA plan has been approved.

## I don't have a Local Coordinator, how do I connect with the NDIS?

If you receive Disability Services' funded or provided supports (such as receiving supports from a disability service provider, living in supported accommodation, or using other supports funded by the previous Disability Services Commission'), your contact details will be provided to the NDIA when your area is due to transition to the Australia-wide NDIS and they will be in touch with you.



If you have not been accessing Disability Services' funded or provided supports, you can contact the NDIA to see if you are eligible for the NDIS and make an access request.

NDIA access request can be made by:

- telephoning 1800 800 110
- visiting the NDIA's Midland office at 78-80 Railway Parade, Midland WA 6056
- telephoning the Midland office on 08 9235 7200

## What is the difference between the Disability Services' Local Coordinators and the NDIA's Local Area Coordinators?

**Local Coordinators** – are employed by the State Government's Department of Communities, Disability Services. They work with individuals, families, guardians and carers to provide personalised, flexible and responsive support. This includes, for example, the provision of information, assistance with individual planning, exploration and identification of supports and services, and connection to local community.

Once an individual becomes part of the Australia-wide National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), administered by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), they can no longer access support through the State Government's Local Coordination model.

**Local Area Coordinators** – NDIA's Local Area Coordination model is delivered through the Partners in the Community Program. On 9 July 2018 an NDIS Partners in Community Program WA Round (external) grant was announced for interested applicants. The application period for the grant closes on 20 August 2018. More information is available on the NDIA's website, at:

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/communities/local-area-coordination#state>

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/grants.html>

## Can I keep seeing my Local Coordinator?

Your Local Coordinator will continue to be your main point of contact until the planning process with the NDIA is complete and your Australia-wide NDIS plan is approved.

## Requests for eligibility and assessment reports (for NDIA eligibility)

The NDIA has begun contacting people in transition areas to start the access process for the Australia-wide NDIS. While you may receive a letter or phone call saying that you "may" be eligible to access the Australia-wide NDIS and that it would be helpful to have any "recent disability assessments or reports" on hand, this does **not** mean you need to provide historic diagnostic evidence to prove eligibility.

In most circumstances this information is **not** required to prove eligibility if you are already in receipt of specialist disability supports and services. See "Defined Programs" (below) for further advice.



## Defined Programs

Individuals who currently receive specialist disability supports and services from State or Commonwealth government programs are generally included in what the NDIA refers to as “Defined Programs”. This includes people who are connected with Disability Services’ Local Coordination service or who are receiving services from a disability service provider.

Defined programs are programs that have requirements aligned to the NDIS disability criteria. This means prospective participants will generally be considered to have satisfied the disability requirements **without further assessment or evidence being required**.

Note, proof of age and residency status may be requested. The NDIA’s website provides further information regarding what supports and services are considered to be Defined Programs, at: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/operational-guideline/access/list-c.html>

## IT and systems issues

The NDIA system has identified that in transition areas there is sometimes a single record where there is more than one family member connected to Disability Services (e.g. multiple siblings). Families have apparently been advised by the NDIA that they will need to submit a new access request to allow the remaining family member/s’ access to the NDIS.

This is **incorrect**, and Disability Services is working with the NDIA to correct this system issue. There is no need to make an access request to the NDIA if you are already in receipt of supports and services through Disability Services. If you are asked by the NDIA to make an access request, please contact your Local Coordinator for advice.

## I / my family member is on the waiting list for a diagnostic assessment from Disability Services

If you have referred someone (or referred yourself) to Disability Services for a diagnostic assessment and are waiting for this to occur, you may have received a letter from the Disability Services’ Eligibility and Assessment Team regarding the next steps.

The Eligibility and Assessment Team will progress with your diagnostic assessment and confirm the outcome to you in writing. Where a diagnosis is confirmed, information will also be provided about how to access supports from the NDIS.

## What types of supports are / aren’t funded?

The types of supports that may or may not be funded are available on [this page](#) of the NDIS website.

## Further information

If you have not yet transferred to the NDIA, you can contact your Local Coordinator in the first instance for further information.



Additional questions and answers are also provided by the NDIA on their website, which may assist with addressing enquiries from individuals, families/carers.

These can be found at: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/WA/qanda.html>

To find out more about the Australia-wide NDIS, please contact:

- **Web:** [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au) or **Phone:** 1800 800 110 (Freecall)