



WA NDIS: The National Disability Insurance Scheme delivered locally

Agreement on the NDIS in WA

The State and Commonwealth governments have signed a Bilateral Agreement that will see the NDIS come to WA under a nationally consistent, locally administered model.

What does this mean?

The Agreement reaffirms a shared commitment to:

- Nationally consistent eligibility.
- Core principles such as access to reasonable and necessary supports, choice and control and a guarantee of full portability now and into the future.
- The NDIS in WA being part of a national quality and safeguarding framework, including the same appeals avenues as in all other States and Territories.
- A joint State-Commonwealth governance arrangement that will ensure the NDIS in WA can continue to be built in partnership with the WA disability community but still benefit from the learning and experiences of the NDIS across the rest of the nation.

This means all eligible West Australians with disability will have access to the NDIS and be entitled to the reasonable and necessary supports they need.

What does the Agreement outline?

- The NDIS in WA will be delivered by the WA Government under State legislation.
- Eligible Western Australians will have access to a nationally consistent insurance-based scheme that guarantees lifetime coverage for reasonable and necessary supports and gives people choice and control over the services and supports they receive.
- This Agreement builds on the experiences and views of people with disability across WA and the lessons of the NDIS trials undertaken in this State and across Australia.
- The WA NDIS will operate under State legislation that will ensure the fundamental parts of WA NDIS are the same as the national scheme, now and into the future.

When will the NDIS come to my area?

The NDIS will be available to all eligible West Australians within three years of the roll-out starting on 1 July 2017:

- 1 July 2017:** The Kimberley-Pilbara, the remaining South Metro region and the Perth Hills.
- 1 July 2018:** Goldfields Esperance, North Metro and the remaining Wheatbelt, South West and Central South Metro.
- 1 July 2019:** Midwest Gascoyne, Great Southern, Central North Metro and South East Metro.

This will see every eligible West Australian able to participate in the NDIS. This schedule is also shown visually in the NDIS in WA – full roll-out map, which is available at www.disability.wa.gov.au > WA NDIS > Related documents.

I'm already participating – how will this affect me?

By the time roll-out commences on 1 July 2017 a quarter of West Australians with a disability will already be able to participate in the NDIS.

- There will be no change for people who are already participating in the WA NDIS in the Lower South West, Cockburn-Kwinana and Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Armadale, and Murray areas.

- People who are part of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) trial will commence transition to the WA NDIS from 1 July 2017. Ahead of this date the WA Government will be working closely with people with disability, the Commonwealth and the NDIA to ensure that the services and supports of people in this trial site are not disrupted during the transition.

How will people with disability be involved?

- The State Government was firm that the final agreement with the Commonwealth should reflect that the NDIS in WA will be shaped by the experiences of people with disability.
- The NDIS in WA will be co-developed with people with disability. As WA moves from the trial phase to full-scheme improvements and refinements will continue to be made. This will be an ongoing process as we continue to learn what people want and need from the NDIS in WA.
- The State Government has also ensured that people with disability are guaranteed a decision making role in all joint governance of the WA NDIS, including at Board level.
- Over the coming months, ahead of the official commencement date, a series of workshops will be held to continue this co-development conversation.

Governance and Administration

- The WA NDIS will be delivered by a WA Government authority, designed specifically for this purpose.
- State legislation will be developed which will mirror key provisions of the Commonwealth NDIS Act, such as access and eligibility, reasonable and necessary support, and choice and control.
- The WA NDIS authority will be governed by a Board who will receive advice from an Independent Advisory Committee.
- WA will continue to actively participate in the development of NDIS policy and governance at a national level.

Portability

- NDIS supports will be fully portable across Australia. This will be mandated in the WA NDIS legislation.

- People have already successfully moved between States and trial sites seamlessly and this will continue.

Quality, Safeguarding and Appeals

- WA will continue to work with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions on the implementation of the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework.
- As is the case in all other States, existing WA quality and safeguarding arrangements will apply during transition until the national approach is implemented.
- People in the WA NDIS will also have access to a nationally consistent complaints and appeals process, including the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Funding

- People in WA will have the same access to funding and supports as anywhere else in the nation.
- Nationally, the NDIS is funded between Governments on the basis of people in the Scheme and individual package costs. This is the same for WA, where the State will contribute 59.4 per cent of package costs and the Commonwealth will contribute the remaining 40.6 per cent. Funding for package costs will be acquitted in arrears, ensuring neither party accrues a large underspend or cash reserves.
- The State and Commonwealth will equally share the cost of all non-package related costs for Information, Linkages and Capacity Building and Local Coordination. This funding is separate from the funding for package costs.
- WA will fund 100 per cent of the administration and operating costs of the authority responsible for delivering the WA NDIS and for the Board and Independent Advisory Council.

Data and Reporting

- The WA NDIS will have the same reporting requirements as the NDIA and will contribute to all national reporting and evaluations.
- Data and information on any issues relevant to the NDIS will be shared between all governments to facilitate national data collection and consolidation (subject to privacy and other requirements).

- The WA NDIS authority Board will report to the Disability Reform Council each quarter on the operational performance of the Scheme in WA and participant outcomes will be measured using a nationally consistent outcomes framework.