



Disability Services Commission

Western Australian National Disability Insurance Scheme (WA NDIS) Operational Policy

Portability

1. Keywords

Permanent, move, trial site, portability, interstate, eligible, relocation.

2. Policy statement

The operational policy applies to the portability of funding for people who permanently move into, or out of, WA NDIS.

3. Principles

People with disability have the same right as other members of society to participate in, direct and implement the decisions that affect their lives, including where they live.

People with disability receiving disability support services who transition to the WA NDIS trial will not be disadvantaged as a result of this transition, including by change of eligibility or reasonable and necessary support criteria.

Eligible people with disability are provided with security and flexibility when moving residences, ensuring continuity of supports.

WA NDIS staff will work collaboratively with other jurisdictions and programs to ensure a smooth transition and minimal impact on individuals when they move between a NDIS trial site and non-NDIS locations.

This includes reviewable and renewable allocations, and any one-off allocations not expended in the individual's current plan.

4. Introduction

This operational policy outlines how plans and funded supports are managed for individuals who permanently relocate from a WA NDIS trial site within Australia or those who move into a WA NDIS trial site. The residency requirements for a person to be eligible for WA NDIS are:

- an Australian citizen OR the holder of a permanent visa OR a protected Special Category Visa (subclass 444) holder; and
- permanently reside in the Lower South West trial site on 1 July 2014, the Cockburn/Kwinana trial site on 1 July 2015, or the Armadale, Murray and Serpentine-Jarrahdale trial site on 1 October 2016.

See the WA NDIS Operational Policy – Eligibility for further information on residence requirements.

A person may meet residency requirements following the commencement of the trial period if:

- a. The person starts to reside in the relevant WA NDIS trial site for reasons other than accessing disability support (for example, education, employment, health care or family support); and/or
- b. exceptional circumstances apply—for example, the person would suffer significant financial or personal hardship, which could reasonably be expected to significantly undermine the person’s wellbeing or social or economic participation, by reason of not being eligible.

Other ways of meeting qualifying residence requirements are detailed in the WA NDIS Operational Policy – Eligibility and Disability Services Regulation 16.

For information about **temporary** absences from the WA NDIS trial site, see the WA NDIS Operational Policy – Grace Periods.

5. Definitions

WA NDIS trial site

The WA NDIS trial is located in:

1. **Lower South West:** The local government areas of Augusta-Margaret River; Boyup Brook; Bridgetown-Greenbushes; Busselton; Donnybrook-Balingup; Manjimup and Nannup as constituted as at 1 July 2014. The trial period is from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017.
2. **Cockburn-Kwinana:** The local government areas of Cockburn and Kwinana as constituted as at 1 July 2014. The trial period is from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2017.
3. **Armadale, Murray and Serpentine-Jarrahdale:** The local government areas of Armadale, Murray and Serpentine-Jarrahdale as constituted as at 1 October 2016. The trial period commences on 1 October 2016 to 30 June 2017.

National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) NDIS trial site

The NDIA NDIS trial site is defined in Schedules G and Schedule H: Bilateral Agreement for the Extension and Expansion of the National Disability Insurance Scheme National Disability Insurance Agency Trial Between the Commonwealth and Western Australia (27 April 2016).

The area includes the Perth Hills and from 1 January 2017, the NDIA NDIS trial site will expand into Bayswater, Bassendean, Chittering, Toodyay, York and Northam.

Permanent relocation

Change of residential address within Australia for a planned period of 12 months or more.

6. Implementation

This operational policy will be implemented in the WA NDIS trial sites.

WA NDIS will adhere to the Intergovernmental Agreement for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Launch, Annex C: Portability Arrangements, which enable individuals receiving disability services to move into different disability service systems with continuing support and funding for a period of up to 12 months. This allows an individual time to secure services, support and funding at the destination with the assurance of continuity of support. For the purposes of WA NDIS reporting, an individual who has moved out of the launch site will continue to be counted as a launch site participant for the duration of this 12 month period.

The Local Coordinator will work with their relevant counterparts in the Commission (Local Coordinators), the NDIA and disability agencies in other jurisdictions to ensure any transition of supports is managed flexibly and seamlessly.



Permanent relocation into WA NDIS trial sites

(for reasons other than disability support e.g. for education, employments, health care or family support).

From elsewhere in Western Australia (excluding NDIA NDIS trial sites)	From NDIA NDIS trial sites	From interstate jurisdictions (non-NDIS trial sites)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals will need to meet WA NDIS eligibility criteria. • The transfer of an individual's plan (including any reasonable and necessary funding) will be managed by the existing Local Coordinator and the Local Coordinator in the WA NDIS trial site to ensure the transition of an individual's supports are managed flexibly and seamlessly. A WA NDIS plan will need to be developed to individualise any in-kind, block funded or therapy supports. • Individuals who are in receipt of Commission funded or provided supports and services when they move, but who do not meet age or residence requirements, will continue to be eligible for those Commission services, although will currently be ineligible for WA NDIS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDIA NDIS will transfer funding for 12 months support (as costed in the individual's plan) to WA NDIS. • Beyond the 12 month initial period, the individual will need to meet WA NDIS eligibility criteria. • During this time the individual's plan will be reviewed and renewed by the WA NDIS Local Coordinator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The originating jurisdiction will transfer funding for 12 months support (as costed in the individual's plan) to WA NDIS. • Beyond the 12 month initial period, the person will need to meet WA NDIS eligibility criteria. • During this time the individual's plan will be reviewed and renewed by the WA NDIS Local Coordinator.



Permanent relocation out of WA NDIS trial sites

To elsewhere in WA (excluding NDIA NDIS trial sites)	To NDIA NDIS trial sites	To interstate jurisdictions (non-NDIS trial sites)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual will receive 12 months funding as costed in the individual's WA NDIS plan. • The transfer of an individual's plan (including any reasonable and necessary funding) will be managed by the Local Coordinator in the WA NDIS trial site and the other Local Coordinator to ensure the transition of an individual's supports is managed flexibly and seamlessly. • The Commission will ensure portability of support and that a person's approved plan will not be impacted by permanently moving, this includes where a person may be eligible and receiving funding for supports within WA NDIS which are not usually provided within Local Coordination. For example, individuals receiving early intervention supports will not be required to join a waitlist to receive services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA NDIS will transfer 12 months funding (as costed in the individual's WA NDIS plan) to the NDIA NDIS. • The Local Coordinator will work with their NDIA counterparts to ensure the transition of supports is managed flexibly and seamlessly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA NDIS will transfer 12 months funding (as costed in the individual's WA NDIS Plan) to the destination jurisdiction. • The Local Coordinator, in collaboration with the Commission's Portability Coordinator, will work with their interstate counterparts to ensure the transition of supports and funding is managed flexibly and seamlessly.

7. Related policies

WA NDIS Operational Policy – Eligibility

Disability Services Commission policy - Moving Interstate: Assistance to People with Disability and their Carers, 2015

The National Interstate Portability Protocol

Local Area Coordination Framework Policy, 2013

Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Disability Insurance Scheme Launch, December 2012

IGA Annex C: Portability Arrangements

8. Evaluation and review date

30 June 2016 or earlier if required.

For further information contact

Scheme Policy & Program Transition Manager

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Date 30 June 2016