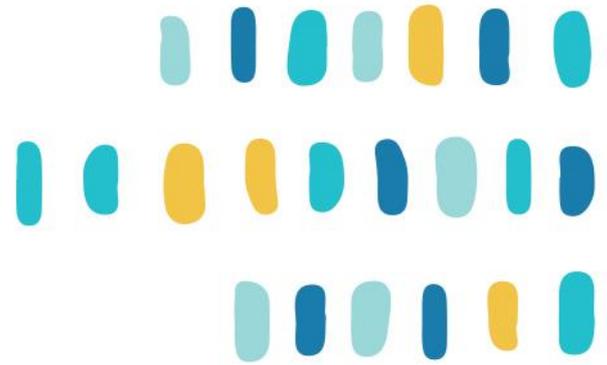




Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**



WA is joining the National Disability Insurance Scheme

Questions and answers

Easy Read version

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1 How to use this document

This document has been written by the Western Australian Department of Communities. When you see the word 'we', it means the Department of Communities.

Some words are written in bold. We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 5.

This document is a summary of another document. You can find the other document on our [website \(http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/\)](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/).

You can ask for help to read this document. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

2 What is this document about?

This document is about Western Australia joining the National Disability Insurance Scheme. This is usually called the NDIS.

The NDIS is a way of providing support for people with disability in Australia. Until now, Western Australia has not joined the national scheme.

Instead, we followed a different set of rules. We called this the WA NDIS.

On the following pages, we answer some important questions about WA joining the national scheme.

3 When will WA join the national scheme?

WA will join the national scheme by 1 July 2018.

If you are using the WA NDIS now, you will join the national scheme by 31 December 2018. The NDIS will be available across the whole of WA by 2020. You can find out when the NDIS will be available in your area by visiting the [website \(www.ndis.gov.au\)](http://www.ndis.gov.au).

4 Why should WA join the national scheme?

A national scheme that includes WA will benefit all Australians.

Joining the national scheme will save WA money over time. This will help us provide more peace of mind to people with disability and their families and carers in WA.

As the last State to join the national scheme, we can learn from the experiences of other states.

5 How will the national scheme be different?

The WA NDIS and the national scheme are similar.

Most of the differences are related to the way the scheme is run by the Australian Government. If you are using the WA NDIS now, the differences you experience should be minor.

All the decisions about who can use the scheme will be the same. And the decisions about the amount of support people receive will be the same. And the decisions about the amount of support people receive will be the same.

6 What does this mean for you?

We have answered this question for three types of people:

- people who are using the WA NDIS now
- people who are not using the WA NDIS now
- people who have never received disability support before.

7 If you are using the WA NDIS now

If you are using the WA NDIS now, your plan will be moved onto the national scheme. This will happen by 31 December 2018.

You will receive a letter in the mail. This letter will explain what will happen for you. You will have help to make this move.

Your **Local Coordinator** will help you. A Local Coordinator is a person who works for the NDIS. They help with planning and they share information.

You won't have to make a new plan. You will get the same kind of support you are getting now. You will need to tell us that you agree to move to the national scheme. The Local Coordinator will explain all of this to you.

You will also be invited to attend an information session if you want to.

8 If you are not using the WA NDIS now

If you are not using the WA NDIS now, you can apply to the national scheme when it becomes available in your area.

You can find out when the NDIS will be available in your area by visiting the [website](http://www.ndis.gov.au) (www.ndis.gov.au).

If you are receiving support from the WA Government at the moment, you will still get this support.

Over time, you can apply to the national scheme for your support.

9 If you have never received disability support before

If you have never received disability support before, you can apply to the NDIS when it is available in your area. You can find out when the NDIS will be available in your area by visiting the [website](http://www.ndis.gov.au) (www.ndis.gov.au).

You need to apply on the website.

You will receive a letter that explains if you can use the NDIS. If you can use the NDIS, you will be offered a planning meeting. And you will be invited to join in with a small group of people to talk about the NDIS and what it will mean for you.

10 Will you be able to keep your service provider?

In most cases, people will be able to keep using their current service provider. Service providers need to be **registered** with the NDIS.

This means that they are on a list of providers who can offer services in the NDIS. Most service providers in WA are already on this list.

If they are not on the list, they will need to apply.

If your service provider is not on the list, you may need to choose a different provider.

11 Can you change your plan?

You won't be able to change your plan at this time.

You can make changes when you have your first plan review.

12 What do service providers need to do?

Service providers need to register with the NDIS. Service providers that are only registered in WA will need to register with the national scheme.

Service providers that are already registered with the national scheme don't need to do anything. In 2018, we will hold information sessions for new providers.

13 Where can you get more information?

The best place for more information is the [website](http://www.ndis.gov.au) (www.ndis.gov.au).

The [WA page](#) has a helpful video (www.ndis.gov.au > About us > NDIS in Western Australia).

There are also regular question and answer sessions.

Your Local Coordinator can give you information about the changes.

There is an information session on the first Friday of each month.

It is held at the NDIS office in Midland.

The address is 78 Railway Parade, Midland

It starts at 9.30 am. It finishes at 11 am.

If you'd like to come to one of these sessions, please call (08) 9235 7206.

Or you can email us at engagementwa@ndis.gov.au

In the future, we will also be holding information sessions in other areas.

14 Word lists

14.1 Local Coordinator

A Local Coordinator is a person who works for the NDIS. They help with planning and they share information.

14.2 National Disability Insurance Scheme

Usually called the NDIS. The NDIS is a way of providing support for people with disability in Australia.

14.3 Registered providers

Organisations that are on a list of providers who can offer services in the NDIS.

14.4 WA NDIS

Until now in WA, the NDIS has been running under a slightly different set of rules to the national scheme.

15 Contact us

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