

NDIS Year 2 expansion in South Australia

About the NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is a new way of funding individualised support for people with disability that involves more choice and control and a lifetime approach to a person's support needs. The Scheme is a big change for the disability sector and will roll out gradually across the country.

The NDIS trial began in South Australia on 1 July 2013.

Can I access the Scheme?

To participate in the NDIS, you need to meet the disability or early intervention requirements, as well as the age and residence requirements.

You need to:

- have a permanent disability which results in substantially reduced ability to undertake regular daily activities
- live in a trial site area (i.e. in South Australia)
- be aged less than 65 years when you make an access request
- be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen who holds a Protected Special Category Visa.

There is more information about the Scheme's access requirements on our website (ndis.gov.au).

To get an idea about whether you meet the access requirements, you can use the [My Access Checker online tool](#) on our website.

When can I start accessing the Scheme?

As with all states, individuals in South Australia will be transitioned into the Scheme in a gradual way to ensure operations and services can be delivered effectively and sustainably.

The NDIS is a big change and we want to get it right. Not everyone will be able to access the Scheme at the same time.

In South Australia, people access the Scheme based on age.

Under the Rules agreed by the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments, children in South Australia will gradually transition into the NDIS based on their age group. For the first year of the NDIS (1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014), children under the age of 6 as at 1 July 2013

could become participants. From 1 July 2014, children under the age of 14 could become participants.

The transition of children under 6 years in South Australia is taking longer than anticipated because the number of applicants has been well in excess of that expected.

Under the Rules the NDIA is required to finalise individualised plans for children in this age group before moving to facilitating the plans of older children.

Children aged under 14 years as at 1 July 2014 who are receiving disability support services from the Commonwealth or South Australian Governments will continue to receive their existing supports. The NDIA will contact these children and their parents or guardians closer to the date when the phasing in of their age group will begin. Updates will be published on the NDIS website.

Children in this age group who are not receiving disability support services from the Commonwealth or South Australian Governments are able to make an access request for the NDIS at any time, and the NDIA will finalise their plans.

Children in South Australia will not miss out on services. If you would like to discuss your individual circumstances, please contact the NDIA on 1800 800 110.

What do I need to do to start accessing the Scheme?

If you are an existing client of a Commonwealth or South Australian Government disability service, the NDIA will contact you about transitioning into the Scheme.

Your current provider will be asked to provide us with information about you, including your name, date of birth and details of your disability. This is to ensure a smooth transition into the Scheme and to prevent you needing to provide this information again when you first meet with us. This means we get into the details of how the Scheme may be able to help you sooner, and get you on your way to achieving your goals faster. You can find out more about our information handling procedures and privacy arrangements on our website (www.ndis.gov.au/privacy).

If you are not currently receiving supports, for example if you are receiving information or referral support only while you wait to access a disability service, you can contact the NDIS Trial Site office in South Australia.

What do I need to do to prepare for the Scheme?

It is a good idea to have a think about what you want your life to look like. At your planning meeting, we will discuss your goals and the outcomes you want to achieve. You will work with an NDIS Plan Support Coordinator to arrange the reasonable and necessary supports you may need to achieve your goals.

The NDIA offers a range of resources to assist with your preparation. For further information you can contact the NDIA on 1800 800 110 or visit the NDIA website (www.ndis.gov.au/planning-process).

What happens to my existing supports?

Your existing supports will remain in place until you have an approved plan. Once this has occurred the NDIA will work with you and your current provider to transition your existing arrangements across to the Scheme.

What if I'm not able to access the NDIS?

If you are not able to access the NDIS, we will provide you with information on disability supports that you can access.

Where are the NDIS offices located?

There are two NDIS offices in SA. They will be open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday:

- 47-49 Elizabeth Way, Elizabeth, 5112
- 15-31 Ayliffes Road, St Marys, Adelaide, 5042

More information

- Visit ndis.gov.au
- Email enquiries@ndis.gov.au
- Call 1800 800 110. TTY users phone 1800 555 677 and ask for 1800 800 110
 - if you are a Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) user — phone 1800 555 727 and ask for 1800 800 110
 - if you are an internet relay user — visit the National Relay Service website and ask for 1800 800 110.0
- Follow us on Twitter @NDIS
- Like us on Facebook

*1800 calls are free from fixed lines; however calls from mobiles may be charged.