The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing support to Australians with disability, their families and carers.

The NDIS will provide all Australians under the age of 65 who have a permanent and significant disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to enjoy an ordinary life.

The NDIS will help people with disability achieve their goals, including independence, community involvement, education, employment and health and wellbeing.

As an insurance scheme, the NDIS takes a lifetime approach, investing in people with disability early to improve their outcomes later in life.

Why do we need the NDIS?

People with disability have the same right as other Australians to determine their best interests and to have choice and control over their lives.

The NDIS recognises that everyone’s needs and goals are different.

The NDIS provides people with individualised support and the flexibility to manage their supports to help them achieve their goals and enjoy an ordinary life.

The NDIS replaces a disability system that was unfair and inefficient with a new, national system that is world-leading, equitable and sustainable. This provides certainty and consistency for people with disability, their families and carers.

Australians will now have peace of mind that if their child or loved one is born with or acquires a significant disability that is likely to be with them for life they will get the support they need, when they need it.
Can I access the NDIS?

To become an NDIS participant a person must:

- Have a permanent disability that significantly affects their ability to take part in everyday activities;
- Be aged less than 65 when they first enter the NDIS;
- Be an Australian citizen or hold a permanent visa or a Protected Special Category visa; and
- Live in Australia where the NDIS is available.

The NDIS is being introduced progressively around Australia from 1 July 2016.

Do I still receive support if I do not meet the access requirements for the NDIS?

A person does not have to be an NDIS participant to receive support from the NDIS.

The NDIS will connect people with disability, their families and carers, including people who are not NDIS participants, to disability and mainstream supports in their community.

To find out more about information, links and referrals to community and mainstream support services visit www.ndis.gov.au or call 1800 800 110.

When will the NDIS be available in my area?

The NDIS began in a number of trial sites around Australia from July 2013.

From 1 July 2016, the NDIS will be rolled out gradually around the rest of Australia from 1 July, 2016.

The NDIS is being introduced in stages around Australia to ensure it is successful and sustainable.

People will enter the NDIS differently depending on where they live and the type of support they currently receive. In some states and territories, the NDIS will be rolled out by area while in others people will enter by age groups.

To find out when the NDIS is coming to your area visit www.ndis.gov.au or call 1800 800 110.

Why an insurance scheme?

As an insurance scheme, the NDIS takes a lifetime approach, providing lifetime support where needed and investing in people with disability early on to improve their outcomes later in life.

What is an NDIS provider?

NDIS providers are individuals or organisations that deliver a support service or product to NDIS participants.

Each NDIS participant has their own plan that lists the goals they want to achieve and the supports the NDIS will fund to help them do this. The participant then has the choice of which provider to purchase supports from.

To find out how to register as a NDIS provider visit www.ndis.gov.au.

What is the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)?

The NDIA is the independent Commonwealth agency responsible for implementing the NDIS.

The NDIA:

- Helps empower and inform people with disability to be confident consumers, while also providing service providers with clarity and transparency so they can grow their business and respond to need.
- Provides information and referrals, links to services and activities, individualised plans and where necessary, funded supports to people over a lifetime.
- Raises community awareness and encourages greater inclusion and access for people with disability to mainstream services, community activities and other government initiatives.