

# National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) impact on Education and Training Directorate Early Intervention Programs and Supports

## National Disability Insurance Scheme

The *National Disability Insurance Scheme* is a new way of providing community linking and individualised support for people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers. It provides choice and control and a whole-of-life approach to the support needed for people to live more independently and work towards achieving their goals.

### Rollout of the NDIS in the ACT

- The ACT trial of the NDIS will begin in July 2014. Between July 2014 and July 2016, people with a disability who reside in the ACT will phase into the scheme based on ages and life stages.
- The ACT has learnt from the experience of the early launch sites about how disability services could best be provided and how the non-government sector can grow to realise the potential of the NDIS.
- The NDIS will see an unprecedented level of investment in disability services in the ACT - \$342 million a year by 2019-20 – and the growth in the disability sector workforce needs to be supported by growth in non-government service providers.
- The non-government sector needs room to grow so it can provide the choice of services that the 5,000 Canberrans who will be transitioning to the NDIS will want.
- Increasing the range of service providers will increase choice and control for participants.
- No person with disability currently receiving ACT Government disability services will be left without support during the transition period.

### Early intervention is part of the NDIS

- Early intervention is a discrete component of the NDIS and these services and programs will form a part of the ACT's overall contribution to the scheme.
- Early intervention is in scope for the NDIS as it is a service specifically to support children with developmental delay or disability.

- The launch of the NDIS will change the way services are delivered to support people with disability.
- Children with a developmental delay or disability who are assessed as NDIS eligible will be able to access supports and services that are considered reasonable and necessary. These supports will be provided by non-government organisations.
- Eligible children and their families will have the opportunity to meet with a planner from the National Disability Insurance Agency to develop an individualised support plan.
- The new approach to supporting people with disability through the NDIS will open up a range of possibilities and opportunities that were not previously available.

### Early intervention works

- Early intervention is a highly valued service that has been included in the NDIS because intervening early in the lives of children with developmental delay or disability leads to better outcomes for children and their families over the long term.
- The introduction of the NDIS will change the way early intervention services are provided for children and families across the ACT – this will have an impact on the Education and Training Directorate among other ACT Government agencies.
- The new model for early intervention will allow for a more inclusive, integrated and effective approach to support children and their families.

## **Education and Training Directorate early intervention programs**

- From January 2015 the Education and Training Directorate will no longer deliver early intervention programs and supports.
- This will be a major change in the way services are provided to people with a disability and is intended to increase the range of non-government organisations working in this area, in line with the principles of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- Affected services include:
  - Early Intervention Playgroups (EIP)
  - Early Intervention Units (EIU)
  - Language Intervention units (LIU)
  - Autism Intervention Units (AIU)
  - Early Childhood Centres (ECC)
  - Early Childhood Units for three-year-olds (ECU 3) and
  - Early intervention home education programs for children with a hearing or vision impairment.
- Children with a developmental delay or disability will be able to access a package through the NDIS that can include funding for early intervention supports.
- All children are able to access mainstream services such as Early Childhood Education and Care and preschool.
- Preschools attached to Malkara School and Cranleigh School (ECU for four-year-olds) will not be affected by this change.
- Preschool children with significant a developmental delay or disability will continue to be able to access the Support at Preschool program or a specialist school preschool program as a reasonable adjustment.

### **No changes in 2014**

- There will be no changes to Education and Training services in 2014.

### **Changes will commence in 2015**

- The timeframe gives us an opportunity to work as a community to make sure services are provided to meet individual needs.
- Schools will continue to provide early intervention within mainstream services as

a reasonable adjustment for children accessing preschool and school.

- The vast majority of children in early intervention programs in 2014 will transition through normal processes to preschool or school, including specialist schools.
- Children, their families and carers, currently accessing Education and Training early intervention programs will be offered support to access the NDIS working with the National Disability Insurance Agency.

### **The new approach to early intervention**

- The introduction of the NDIS will lead to improved services and outcomes for children with a developmental delay or disability and their families.
- The NDIS emphasises increased choice and control for people with disability and their families.
- The NDIS promotes diversity and encourages innovation in service provision.
- The new approach to early intervention will allow for a more inclusive, integrated and family-centred model carried out within natural family and community settings – this reflects an evidence-base of best practice in the field.
- The NDIA will support therapeutic interventions that are linked to mainstream services such as education and involve specialist providers actively engaging with and building the capacity of those linked mainstream programs to facilitate the child and family's inclusion and participation.

### **Further Information**

- Individuals, families or carers wanting more information can contact a dedicated information hub during business hours on 6207 1086 or visit the NDIS website at [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au).