

2017 school leavers and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) – Factsheet for students

This factsheet is for students with disability in Victoria who are completing school in 2017 and living in Inner Gippsland, Wimmera South West, Ovens Murray, Inner Eastern Melbourne and Outer Eastern Melbourne.

WHAT IS THE NDIS?

The NDIS is the new way of providing individualised support for people with an impairment or condition that is likely to be permanent, or who have a developmental delay that affects their ability to take part in everyday activities. The NDIS provides funding for individual supports and services deemed to be *reasonable and necessary* for people with a disability to achieve their goals and aspirations. The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is the federal agency delivering the NDIS.

Under the NDIS, a person receiving supports is called a *participant*.

Participants will be able to access a wide range of supports to help them pursue their goals and aspirations after leaving school, such as independent living, being part of the community, further training or employment.

WHICH AREAS WILL TRANSITION TO THE NDIS IN 2017?

The NDIS commenced in some areas across Victoria on 1 July 2016 and will be progressively introduced until 2019. Further information about when the NDIS will commence in specific areas of Victoria can be found [here](http://www.vic.gov.au/ndis.html) at www.vic.gov.au/ndis.html

The seven areas transferring to the NDIS in 2017 are:

- From 1 January 2017 – Central Highlands
- From 1 May 2017 – Loddon
- From 1 October 2017 – Inner Gippsland, Wimmera South West and Ovens Murray
- From 1 November 2017 – Inner Eastern Melbourne and Outer Eastern Melbourne

WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE NDIS?

To access the NDIS you must live in Australia and be:

- an Australian citizen OR a permanent resident OR hold a Protected Special Category Visa
- Under 65 years of age
- have a functional impairment or condition that is likely to be permanent (lifelong) and that stops you from doing everyday things by yourself.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS?

For school leavers who live in an area that will transition to the NDIS from October 2017:

If you are in receipt of one of the following supports at school, your details will be given to the NDIA and the NDIA will be in contact with you closer to the date the NDIS becomes available in your area. You do not need to contact the NDIA.

Supports:

- Level 4, 5 or 6 funding under the Program for Students with Disabilities
- Medical Intervention Support
- Students with Disabilities Transport Program (special school bus)
- Funding under the Vision Impairment category of the Program for Students with Disabilities
- Enrolment in a specialist school for students with moderate to profound intellectual disability.

To make transition into the NDIS as easy as possible for students in the above supports, we have provided your contact details to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). We have done this as part of a formal legal process to make sure that your information continues to be protected. Section 55 of the *National Disability Insurance Act 2013* enables certain information to be shared with the NDIA by the state or funded providers in order to help transition to the NDIS.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) also has a range of programs that are transitioning into the NDIS. DHHS will also be giving their client's contact details to the NDIA.

If you are not currently receiving any of the above supports, you can contact the NDIA when it is available in your area to test your eligibility for the Scheme. You can find out when the NDIS is available in your area on the [NDIS website](#). See the section below "How can I access the NDIS" for further information.

If you require supports in 2018 and you are eligible for the NDIS, the NDIA will be responsible for planning with you and approving reasonable and necessary supports. The NDIS can fund a range of post-school supports to assist young people with disabilities to move into employment or other options.

School Leaver Employment Support (SLES) is an NDIS funded support for NDIS eligible Year 12 school leavers. It is a new approach that builds on and strengthens the skills that students have gained at school. SLES is not the only post school support the NDIS funds and it is not for everyone. NDIS participants may be eligible to receive SLES in addition to other supports that are deemed reasonable and necessary.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can my school help me access the NDIS?

The Department of Education and Training is committed to supporting children and young people with disabilities and their families to maximise the benefits available to them through the NDIS.

As part of this commitment, schools can play a significant role helping you to access the scheme. If you are asked to provide evidence by the NDIA to support your application to the NDIS, schools can provide you with copies of your student records. Relevant information that schools may hold include:

- Copies of previous or current Program for Students with Disabilities applications
- Individual Learning Plans
- Student Support Service reports or allied health reports.

Although providing these existing school documents is recommended, please note that **schools are not required to arrange new assessments** for the purpose of providing evidence to support a student's access to the NDIS.

What will my first plan with the NDIS do to support me when I leave school?

If you are eligible for the NDIS, your first plan will provide you with the supports you need now and will explore options for your next plan. The length of your first plan will generally be 12 months. During that time, you should assess how your supports are working and take the time to identify what else might be needed to help you achieve your long-term goals.

What kind of supports will the NDIS provide?

You will talk with your NDIS representative about the support and assistance that is reasonable and necessary for you to achieve your goals. NDIS supports may include assistance across a range of life areas such as social and community participation, building life skills, mobility or communication technology, further study or finding and maintaining a job.

What do I need to do before meeting with the NDIA to develop my plan?

You may have already thought about your post-school options and have an idea about what you are interested in doing after you leave school.

Before your meeting with the NDIA, think about what supports you use now, what your goals are for the future and what you need to achieve them. Take any information you have that will help you think and talk about your goals with your NDIS representative. You may wish to take plans or information from your school that will assist in sharing information about your future goals and aspirations.

More information about the NDIS and your plan is available [here](https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/planning-process) at: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/planning-process>.

What will happen if I am not NDIS eligible?

You can approach the NDIA for information about local community supports or the Local Area Coordinator (LAC) in your area for linkage to other supports such as Centrelink, Disability Employment Services. You can look up the LAC in your area [here](https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/locations.html) at <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/locations.html>.

What if I live in an area that will transition to the NDIS in 2018 or later?

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will continue to support eligible young people to transition from school to adult life through Futures for Young Adults, which might include the Transition to Employment program, until the NDIS is available in their area. Through Futures for Young Adults, school leavers are assisted to plan and make informed choices about their future and which post-school options they want to explore.

Transition to Employment offers work-focussed, time-limited support to school leavers who want to pursue paid employment but who are not yet ready to move into employment, or to receive assistance through a Commonwealth Government employment program.

More information about DHHS transition support for young people with a disability leaving school can be found [here](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/disability/community-life-and-jobs/transition-support) at <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/disability/community-life-and-jobs/transition-support>

What if I live in an area that has already transitioned to the NDIS (Barwon, Central Highlands, North Eastern Melbourne Area and Loddon)?

If you are an NDIS participant and you live in an area that has already transitioned to the NDIS (Barwon, North East Melbourne Area, Central Highlands and Loddon) you can discuss your options with your NDIA planner at your next planning appointment.

If you are not an NDIS participant and you live in an area that has transitioned to the NDIS, you can approach the NDIS to see if you are eligible for the scheme.

How can I access the NDIS?

You can access the NDIS by;

- telephoning the NDIA on 1800 800 11
- completing an online NDIA contact form
- Visiting your local NDIA office or Local Area Coordinator office in person.

You can find your Local Area Coordinator [here](https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/locations.html) at <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/locations.html>

For more information about the NDIS

- www.ndis.gov.au
- 1800 800 110*, From 8am to 11pm (local time) Monday to Friday
- Follow on Twitter @NDIS
- Find on Facebook: Facebook/NDISAus.

For people with hearing or speech loss

- TTY: 1800 555 677*
- Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727.

For people who need help with English

- TIS: 131 450

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