

The NDIS and You



An Easy English information sheet

What is the NDIS?



The National Disability Insurance Scheme pays for disability services in Australia.



The NDIS is about what is 'reasonable and necessary' for you to live your life your way.



This means that you can choose what supports you want and who provides the supports.

If you use the NDIS, you are called a participant.

Who can use the NDIS?



To use the NDIS, you must:

- be under 65 years old
- live in Australia or be an Australian citizen
- have a disability that means you need help with some things.





When you use the NDIS, you will have a plan written for you.



Everybody's plan is different.



You can choose who you want to support you and what services you get.



You can change your supports at any time.

If you live in **supported accommodation**, you can't change who supports you in your home.

Supported accommodation is when you live in a home owned by a Specialist Disability Accommodation provider and receive supports in your home.

The NDIS and You



A Plain English information sheet

What is the NDIS?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the major scheme that funds disability services across Australia. The scheme is managed by a Commonwealth Government department called the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) that has been formed specifically to oversee disability funds and funding processes.

The NDIS is “person-centred” which means that the person with the disability is at the centre of all support provided.

This is the largest and most exciting change for people with disabilities and their families and advocates in recent history. It means that under the NDIS, people with disabilities (called “participants” in the scheme) will have their own funds, and they and their families and advocates will be empowered to make their own choices over how they wish to spend the NDIS funds in their plan.

At Melba, we strongly support giving individuals more choice and control over their lives, a principle that aligns with our commitment to Human Rights.

Who is eligible for the NDIS?

To be eligible for NDIS you must meet the following criteria:

Age

- The person must be under 65 years of age at the time of their transition to the NDIS. If a person is aged 65 or over and is receiving disability services at the time of transition to the NDIS, their disability services and care will continue as before.

Residency

- The person must live in Australia and are an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

Disability

- The person has a permanent disability that substantially impacts how they manage everyday activities.

The NDIS takes a person-centred, flexible, whole-of-life approach to working with participants, their families and carers, to develop individualised plans.

The NDIS provides participants with more choice and control over how, when and where their supports are provided. At Melba, individuals have choice and control over their lives, a principle that aligns with our commitment to Human Rights.

The NDIS provides certainty that people will receive the support they need over their lifetime and works to connect people with their community and mainstream supports. The NDIS funds the reasonable and necessary supports to help people pursue their goals and aspirations, and participate in daily life.

Participants can choose who provides their supports and they can change their supports at any time. There is however one exception. Specialist Disability Housing (SDA) providers (owners of the house) have an agreement with one single organisation to provide personalised Supported Independent Living (SIL) to all the participants living in that house.

If you live in a house that Melba is the SIL provider for, it will be Melba staff who will support you at home. Participants can however invite other service providers to come into their home to assist them i.e. learn how to cook, to study, to learn how to manage their money etc. These are the Core Supports.