

Questions and Answers

For residents, families and carers about Department of Health & Human Services managed disability accommodation services

What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a national insurance scheme which provides individualised support and services for people with a disability, their families and carers.

Just like Medicare changed the way health care was delivered, the NDIS will change the way disability services are provided.

The NDIS will significantly increase the funding available for Victorians with a disability, ensuring that more people receive the care and support they need, whenever they need it, and receive it over their whole lifetime. Long waiting lists for services will no longer exist under the NDIS.

The disability sector is going to expand to provide targeted services where they are needed in local communities. It will take time to make sure the right services are in the right places.

currently provided by the state government. The government is committed to strong engagement with clients, providers and the workforce as part of this process.

This process will include disability specialist services and services provided in group homes, respite facilities and residential institutions by the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as early childhood intervention services provided by the Department of Education and Training.

There will not be a blanket approach to delivering the NDIS. Services will be tailored for different locations and clients' needs.

The government is committed to a detailed, consultative and rigorous market process with strong engagement with clients, providers and the workforce to ensure the transition is smooth. This process is currently being developed and consultation will begin in 2016.

What does this announcement mean?

The transfer of Victorian Government disability services to NDIS funded organisations in the non-government sector will be conditional on providers establishing that they have the capacity and expertise to deliver quality services for clients; with strong and enduring safeguards; and support for staff including moving to employment in the non-government sector on fair terms.

The government want people to have genuine choice and control over the support they receive and this cannot happen if the Victorian Government continues to dominate the disability services market.

The government is now going to begin working through a transparent and robust process to identify which organisations are best placed to provide NDIS services

Will residents have to move house?

Residents will continue to live in a group home with staff who are familiar with their support needs, unless they want to move out to a different type of accommodation. We will work with the person with a disability, their family member, carers and staff to minimise any disruption to the resident's daily life and maintain the daily routines in the group home.

How will staff be supported?

The disability workforce is made up of thousands of caring individuals who do great work every day.

The government will support to staff to take advantage of the opportunities that will come with the NDIS. This includes working through things like training opportunities and career development pathways to

ensure the workforce retains its quality as well as encouraging new staff to join the sector. It is anticipated the NDIS will provide an opportunity for the doubling of disability services workforce.

What will happen next?

The Deputy Secretary NDIS Reform and Director of Housing has directly written to all residents living in Department of Health & Human Services managed group homes and institutions to explain what is happening.

Until the government is satisfied the right services are in place for clients and staff are able to transfer on fair terms, the department will continue to deliver business as usual.

In the new year there will be a series of forums for family consultation to discuss any issues in relation to the transition. Details will be communicated when available.

Where can I get more information?

Information about the full implementation of NDIS is available at the NDIS website www.ndis.gov.au/vic.

You can also speak call the department's Intake line on 1800 783 783, or the house supervisor or operations manager.