

Next steps for the NDIS in Victoria:

expanding the delivery of quality disability services

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is a once-in-a-generation reform. It is transforming the way disability services are funded and accessed to ensure all people with disability get the support and services they need and deserve.

Focus on people

People with disability must be at the heart of the NDIS. The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring people with disability actively participate in decision-making related to the design and implementation of the NDIS.

Victoria is also working with other governments to ensure the principles that underpin the NDIS remain central to decision-making in the scheme, and that the promise of a better life made to people with disability, their families and carers is delivered.

Getting NDIS ready

The Victorian Government is investing \$10 million to deliver an NDIS Transition

Support Package (TSP) which will support the readiness of people with disability, families, carers and service providers to transition to the NDIS.

The package will provide practical and targeted information and resources to assist people to adapt to the new way the NDIS will work.

Participants and the disability sector will help the Government identify where support is needed most, what activities are needed and how these activities can be co-developed.

A list of TSP providers is available at www.vic.gov.au/ndis.

National leader in consultation and engagement

Victoria is putting people with disability and their families, and the disability workforce at the centre of the NDIS rollout, and is undertaking a collaborative design approach regarding the future delivery of disability services.

That's why we established an Implementation Taskforce which provides a forum for nominated members, including people with disability and other key stakeholders, to work closely with the Government on the transition to the NDIS.

35 organisations are represented, with members including participants, unions, participant advocates and peak bodies.

Next steps for the NDIS in Victoria

The next stage for the NDIS in Victoria is to measure the interest and ability of non-government disability service providers to deliver services across the state. This will be done through an expression of interest (EOI) process.

What does this announcement mean?

To implement a scheme that gives people with disability greater choice and control over the services they receive, the disability sector needs to expand. This will enable more organisations to provide a diverse range of services.

The EOI process has been designed to test whether the strict conditions the Government has set for the future of disability services can be met, and to measure the interest and ability of the non-government sector to deliver services.

Interested parties are being invited to submit an expression of interest on their capacity to meet the Government's strict standards and deliver the following services:

- Supported Independent Living (SIL): Involves the provision of support in a group home or residential unit for people with disability.
- Short Term Accommodation and Assistance (STAA): Currently known in Victoria as Facility Based Respite (FBR), this involves the shortterm placement of a person in a supported respite service.
- Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS): These are delivered as allied health and specialist early childhood education services to young children with a permanent disability or developmental delay.
- Behavioural Intervention Services (BIS): Highly specialised, episodic services delivered to individuals with disability displaying behaviours of concern.

There will be no transition of services if the Government's conditions are not met. These include the requirement that potential providers are able to:

- deliver high quality and safe disability services; and

- manage and develop a high quality workforce employed on fair terms.

These conditions reflect the Government's commitment that as the NDIS rolls out no one should be worse off - not people with disability and not workers.

Will the EOI affect people with disability?

The EOI was released on 27 April and will be open for nine weeks. It will close on 29 June. There will not be any changes to the services before the end of the year as a result of this process.

After the EOI process has concluded, the Government will assess responses and test whether conditions have been met, and make a decision regarding the future delivery of disability services in Victoria.

Maintaining quality and safety

The Government understands that quality of services and safety for both people with disability and staff are paramount, and the EOI evaluation criteria reflects this.

Under the NDIS in Victoria, particular focus will be given to building a safe environment that will continue to attract dedicated staff who want to improve the lives of people with disability.

Through the EOI process, the Government wants to hear from organisations that value quality, safety and collaboration, and that will actively work with other providers to improve the outcomes for people with disability, their families, and workers.

A transfer of services to the non-government sector will only occur if strict conditions are met. The Government must be satisfied that:

- Providers have established that they have the capacity and expertise to

deliver quality services.

- Strong and enduring safeguards are in place to protect people with disability.
- The right services are in place for people with disability.
- Staff will be supported, including to transfer on fair terms of employment.

The Government has said it expects to remain a service provider in some form. The EOI process will help the Government understand the extent to which services are able to be delivered by non-government providers and where the Government may need to continue to provide services.

Additionally, the Victorian Government has also announced that it will establish an independent, legislated registration and accreditation scheme for the State's disability workforce. This scheme will ensure workers have the right skills, experience, and qualifications for their role and can work confidently in the NDIS environment

The Government is also working with the Australian Government on a national Quality and Safeguarding Framework for the NDIS. These safeguards, as well as its own improvements to Victorian legislation, are a range of measures that will ensure safety and wellbeing, while supporting people with disability to have a good quality life.

Working together on a shared vision

Victoria is putting people with disability and their families, and the disability workforce at the centre of the NDIS rollout, and is undertaking a collaborative design approach regarding the future delivery of disability services.

Since early 2016, the Victorian Government has engaged with people with disability and their families, and disability workers across the state, and large, medium and small service providers in metropolitan, regional and

rural areas regarding the future delivery of disability services.

Interviews and small workshops have been conducted to understand participants' lived experiences and their hopes for the NDIS, with a focus on quality of care, safety and choice.

The information gathered during these discussions has shaped the strict conditions Government has placed on the potential transfer of services and the EOI evaluation criteria, which measure and test the quality of potential service providers.

The Government will continue to engage with participants, families and staff as the NDIS rolls out across Victoria.

Want to learn more?

The Victorian Government is committed to consulting with people with a disability and their families, as well as disability staff and providers throughout EOI stage as well as the NDIS rollout more generally, and will provide regular updates.

For further information about the NDIS in Victoria, visit www.vic.aov.au/ndis.