



Continuity of support for clients of Commonwealth disability programs

2018 Budget

Clients of Commonwealth disability programs who are ineligible for the NDIS will continue to receive the support they need.

What was announced in the 2018 Budget?

Clients of Commonwealth funded disability programs who are ineligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will receive continuity of support from 1 July 2019.

The Government is providing \$92.6 million over four years for continuity of support arrangements. This means clients who are ineligible for the NDIS will be supported to achieve similar outcomes, even if the arrangements for doing that change over time.

Continuity of support was a commitment of the Council of Australian Governments in 2012. Its aim is to ensure that people with disability currently receiving services are not disadvantaged in the transition to the NDIS.

There are 17 Commonwealth programs transitioning funds and clients to the NDIS. Of these, 15 programs require some form of continuity of support.

The Hearing Services Program and Continence Aids Payment Scheme are continuing programs and, as such, do not require continuity of support.

Most Commonwealth disability program clients are expected to transition to the NDIS. However, some clients will not be eligible for the NDIS, such as people over 65 years of age.

There are five different packages of continuity of support which will be implemented from 1 July 2019:

1. Continuity of support for mental health programs
2. Continuity of support for carer programs
3. A continuity of support Fund
4. Continuity of support for Mobility Allowance recipients
5. Continuity of support for clients of the National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service.

About 8,800 clients of the mental health programs (Personal Helpers and Mentors, Partners in Recovery and Support for Day to Day Living

programs) who are ineligible for the NDIS will receive continuity of support from community mental health services delivered through the Primary Health Networks. This will be complemented by the Psychosocial Supports measure announced as part of the 2017-18 Budget for new mental health clients who are not eligible for the NDIS.

About 6,500 clients of the Respite and Carer Support, Respite Support for Carers of Young People with Severe or Profound Disability, and Young Carers Respite and Information Services will receive continuity of support through the new [Integrated Carer Support Service](#).

The continuity of support Fund will support about 1,600 NDIS ineligible clients of the following programs:

- Younger Onset Dementia Key Worker Program;
- Better Start for Children with Disability;
- Helping Children With Autism;
- Outside School Hours Care for Teenagers with Disability;
- Remote Hearing and Vision Services for Children;
- Work Based Personal Assistance; and
- Australian Disability Enterprises.

From 1 July 2020, around 16,000 existing Mobility Allowance recipients, ineligible for the NDIS, will be 'grandfathered' and continue to receive their payment until they no longer meet the eligibility criteria or exit the program.

About 600 users of the National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service, who are over 65 years or otherwise ineligible for the NDIS, will receive continuity of support through a contracted National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service provider. It is expected all other clients will be eligible for the NDIS. New clients over 65 who are ineligible for the NDIS will also still be able to access the National Auslan Interpreter Booking and Payment Service.

Existing Commonwealth disability program clients who are ineligible for the NDIS are being supported through existing program arrangements to 30 June 2019, when it is expected the NDIS will reach full scheme (excluding WA) and all existing

clients have had an opportunity to access the NDIS.

The NDIS is expected to reach full scheme in WA in July 2020. Funding arrangements are being finalised to support clients in WA after 30 June 2019.

Key facts

Continuity of support will be available to existing Commonwealth program clients ineligible for the NDIS. This includes people who do not meet the NDIS access requirements for residence, age or disability.

Approximately 27,000 existing Commonwealth clients will receive continuity of support.

More information

For more information about this measure and other Department of Social Services' Budget measures, visit the [Department of Social Services](#) website ([dss.gov.au](#)).

For information about the 2018 Budget, visit the [Australian Government Budget](#) website ([budget.gov.au](#)).