

# Your family and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

## Background of the NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way the government is distributing funds for disability supports.

The NDIS launched in July 2013, following years of discussion about the need for a major reform of disability services in Australia. Now it's in the process of being gradually rolled out across Australia in phases. You can check where it's up to by visiting [ndis.gov.au](http://ndis.gov.au).

## How will the NDIS change things?

Instead of the government directly funding service providers like The Shepherd Centre, it will now allocate funding to each individual person seeking support. This means your child will receive an individualised funding package designed to cover what they specifically need. If you'd like to know more about how this will look when it comes to your service with The Shepherd Centre, just give us a call or speak to us when you're in next and we can help walk you through it.

## What will it mean for my family?

As a parent or guardian, you'll play a very active role in the NDIS process. You'll be in direct contact with the government through an agency called the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

Even though the NDIA will make the final decisions about funding, you'll need to provide information and make decisions along the way about your child's future. It may feel overwhelming to start with but The Shepherd Centre team is ready to help and support you as you prepare for meetings with the NDIA.

## The NDIS is coming to my area soon, what do I need to know?

For now, the important thing to know is that you'll be the main contact for the NDIA. We're here to support you and advocate for you in some circumstances but the plan will be made between you and the NDIA.

In your initial meeting/s with the NDIA, you'll be asked to express what the goals are for your child in the near and more distant future. Goals are then used to determine what assistance your child needs.

Start thinking now about goals for your child's future and their support needs. As your child grows up you may not be in a position to predict exactly what he/she may require in the next 12 months. That's why it may be helpful for you to meet with our experienced staff at The Shepherd Centre prior to meeting with the NDIA because we can work in partnership with you to determine the possible impacts of your child's hearing.

## Feeling confused or overwhelmed?

The Scheme is a significant change for everyone involved. It's understandable that you may feel a jumble of emotions about what's to come. Remember that we're here to help and no question is insignificant. We're ready to walk the journey together with you.

## We're here for you

If you want to talk anything through or ask a question, please don't hesitate to chat with your therapist, give us a call on 1800 020 030 or phone one of our centres directly (phone numbers over the page). To read more about the NDIS, visit [ndis.gov.au](http://ndis.gov.au).

## CONTACT US

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Giving deaf children a voice

