

CHOICES Newsletter

YOUR CHOICES-YOUR WAY



The **NDIA Annual Report 2013 -14** is now available on the NDIS website, including an easy English version. At 30 June 2014, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) had approved **7316 plans** for people with disability within the trial sites (not including the ACT). The time taken to determine participant eligibility has fallen from an average of 30 days in July–December 2013 to 13 days in January – June 2014. Satisfaction levels of participants in the trial sites are very high — 94 per cent rated NDIA planning good, or very good.

To download the report go to:

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/document/925>

Welcome to the November edition of CHOICES

Four months into the roll out of the NDIS in the ACT and we are now witnessing the difference the NDIS can make to many people's lives. CatholicCare is already providing supports to NDIS participants with approved plans and funding. People with plans are making choices about the services they want and when and how they will be delivered.

Many of these plans have an element of in-built flexibility with regards to some of the supports that can be purchased with a participants funding, resulting in greater participant choice and control. CatholicCare currently provide 122 different supports under the NDIS and we are working towards increasing that number.

In addition to having greater choice and control around supports, some participants, carers and families are choosing to manage their NDIS funding themselves and purchase supports from us directly and not through the NDIA.

It is important that participants are able to make informed choices when making decisions about plans. Please contact your case manager for copies of any relevant assessments and information about your current supports as these will be helpful when meeting the NDIA planner.

responsibility, Dignity, Inclusive, Community, Excellence, Solidarity, Empowering, Relationships, Respect, Excellence, Rights, Dignity, Individual, Inclusive, Community, Relationships, Excellence, Quality, Vision, Right, Stewardship, Inclusive, Community

Frequently Asked Questions?

What choice and flexibility is there about what can be purchased with NDIS funds?

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has increased flexibility for participants in the use of their funds in order to reduce the need for plan amendments and associated delays.

Some participants will have supports listed in an attachment to their plan called “Interchangeable Flexible Supports”. The flexible supports are designed to help participants with activities of daily living and community access. They are called flexible supports because participants have choice as to how they use the funding for these supports.

Each of the flexible support items in a participant’s plan has an “estimated usage” which tells participants how much of the support the NDIA has calculated they should need. The “total funding for my flexible supports” in a participant’s plan is the funding they have been allocated for all flexible supports and is the maximum amount participants can spend on these supports.

Participants can use their flexible supports funding to buy any of the supports listed in the flexible supports table in their plan. Participants can also use their flexible supports funding to buy any of the supports listed in the Interchangeable Flexible Supports Attachment in their plan (if the plan has one). These are part of a group of frequently used supports (also known as a bundle). Participants can choose to use flexible supports funding to buy supports listed in the Attachment instead.

Participants may want to buy more of some supports and less of others to better suit their needs at a particular time or as different things happen in their life. Life doesn’t always stay the same and how participants use flexible supports doesn’t have to either. Usually there is no limit to how much flexible funding participants can swap between flexible support items, but they will need to monitor spending as the total funding for flexible supports will not change.

This means if a participant spends more on one flexible support item they will need to spend less on one or more of the other flexible support items. And if a participant buys supports from the Attachment, they will have to spend less on the flexible supports in their flexible supports table.

(Source NDIA website. For further information go to <http://www.ndis.gov.au/document/792>).

The National Disability Insurance Agency are hosting NDIS Pre-planning workshops

New NDIS pre-planning workshops have now been scheduled for November and December.

The workshops with NDIS staff will offer people a chance to:

- learn about becoming involved with the Scheme; and
- learn about the NDIS planning process and prepare for planning conversations.

For further information go to http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/disability_act/national_disability_insurance_scheme/latest-news

or email actengagement@ndis.gov.au