



Next steps for the NDIS in Victoria:

Expanding the delivery of quality disability and Early Childhood Intervention Services

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a once-in-a-generation reform. It is transforming the way disability services are funded and accessed to ensure all people with disability, including children with developmental delay or disability get the support and services they need and deserve.

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting children with developmental delay and disability and their families, the Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) workforce, and service providers as they transition onto the NDIS.

Focus on people

People with disability, including children with developmental delay or disability, must be at the heart of the NDIS. The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring families and carers of children with developmental delay or 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.

75 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 EOI process.

This includes Specialist Children's Services currently provided by the Victorian Department of Education and Training.

What does this announcement mean?

To implement a scheme that gives children with developmental delay or disability and their families greater choice and control over the services they receive, the ECIS 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 across Victoria.

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 children using Specialist Children's Services?

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 Specialist Children's 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 Specialist Children's Services in Victoria.

Children who are NDIS participants using Specialist Children's Services will be able to choose a different provider if they wish.

No changes will be made without giving families and carers of children using Specialist Children's Services plenty of notice. The government will continue to keep families and carers informed throughout the EOI process.

Maintaining quality and safety

The government understands that quality of services and safety for children with developmental delay or disability and their families 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 children with developmental delay or disability and their families.

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 children with developmental delay or disability, their families, and staff.

Demonstrating family centred, strengths-based and culturally responsive practices will be essential. Organisations will have to demonstrate how families are engaged in decision-making and how they are supported to make choices about the services their child receives.

Most importantly, government must be satisfied that any transfer of services to non-government providers is the best option for all affected people – Victorians with disability and their families, and the disability workforce.

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 and ECIS.

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 measures and tests 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 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.gov.au/ndis.