

# Accessing the NDIS and the CoS Program



**The NDIA and the State Government made an agreement that for existing clients of Disability SA, a transition summary outlining supports and equipment received would be sent to the NDIS, along with a copy also being sent to the client.**

## Accessing the NDIS

When it is time to transition to the NDIS, the client is contacted by a National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) representative. A series of questions will be asked to confirm their details and clarify their supports, and for some a small number of people, additional information may be requested.

Once access is granted, the client (or representative/nominee) will receive a letter from the NDIA advising that they meet the access requirements to become a 'participant' of the scheme. Every participant will then be contacted by an NDIA planner or Local Area Coordinator (LAC) to undertake the planning process.

## NDIS Eligibility Criteria

Along with reviewing relevant medical assessments and reports, clients must meet the following criteria:

- Have a permanent and significant disability that affects their ability to take part in everyday activities

- Be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen who holds a Protected Special Category Visa
- Be aged less than 65 when you first access the scheme. You will then be able to continue accessing the scheme after age 65.

For anyone who does not currently receive disability supports and the NDIS is available in their area, they can request an access form by calling the NDIS directly on 1800 800 110.

## Continuity of Supports (CoS) Program

The State and Commonwealth Governments are committed to ensuring people with disability who are over the age of 65 or 50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, currently receiving state government disability services, are not disadvantaged with the introduction of the NDIS. An alternative program, the Continuity of Supports or CoS program, will manage their services instead of the State government. This program is administered through

the Department of Health and will mean that they:

- Do not have to be reassessed to enter CoS
- Can continue to receive services through their existing service provider and continue to receive the same level of supports they were receiving at the time they entered CoS.

If a participant's needs change, a review of their circumstances will be undertaken and depending on the outcome there may be some options available through the CoS Program to get the additional funding required. Generally, this will be for short term temporary increases in support needs. If, however their support needs increase ongoing, it is likely that these supports will be met through the aged care sector.

The CoS Client Handbook can be accessed by calling the Department of Health on 1800 020 103 or [commonwealthcos@health.gov.au](mailto:commonwealthcos@health.gov.au)

**If you would like more information, please call Linda Macmillan, PQSA Projects Coordinator on (08) 8355 3500 or [lindam@pqsa.asn.au](mailto:lindam@pqsa.asn.au)**

