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# ready together ::

Ready Together: a better future for people with disability in NSW



Family &  
Community  
Services



## How to use this document



This information is written in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



Some words are written in **bold**. We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words starting on page 22.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on our website at [www.adhc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au).



You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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## What is this document about?



This document is about getting NSW ready for the **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**.



The NDIS is a new way of providing support to people with disability in Australia. We explain the NDIS in detail on page 6.



The NDIS has already started in the Hunter area of NSW.



By 2018, the NDIS will be up and running all across NSW.

ready together

We are calling our preparations for the NDIS *Ready Together*.

This document explains all the things we are doing to get *Ready Together*.

## What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)?



The NDIS is a new way of providing support to people with disability in Australia.



It is based on the idea that everyone with disability is an individual and that they need different types of support.



The NDIS is about you, the person.

A **person centred system** means people with disability – and their family and carers – can choose the support they need and who provides it.



This includes listening to your goals and the way you want to live your life.



In December 2012, NSW was the first state to sign up to the NDIS.



It was launched in Newcastle on 1 July 2013.



Over the next 3 years it will also be launched in Lake Macquarie and Maitland, supporting 10,000 people.



From July 2016, people across NSW will start to use the NDIS.



By 2018, the NDIS will be in place across the whole of NSW.

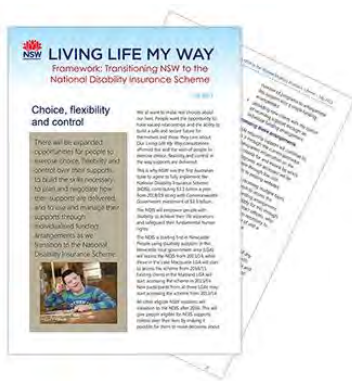
It will help about 140,000 people.



## How will *Ready Together* help?



Over the past few years, we asked people how we can improve disability supports.



We listened to what everyone told us. The improvements are called ***Living Life My Way***.

You can find information about this on our website:

[http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about\\_us/strategies/life\\_my\\_way](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/about_us/strategies/life_my_way)



*Ready Together*, through *Living Life My Way*, is giving people more access to **individualised support**.

Individualised support is when you decide who manages the funding to pay for your disability supports, rather than a service provider.

This will allow people with disability to:



- have more flexibility, choice and control over their supports



- have more opportunities to pursue their goals



- be a part of their communities



- live independently if they want to.

*Ready Together* will help by:



- allowing people to combine their funding from different programs if they want to



- giving people who are new to the system the option to start receiving individualised support straight away.

We want to make sure that it's easy to move from supports offered by the NSW Government to support provided under the NDIS.



*Ready Together* will also make sure that people from diverse backgrounds are able to access these supports.

## Programs under *Ready Together*

### Ability Links NSW



Ability Links NSW is a program that connects people with disability to their local communities.



It does this by putting people in touch with a **Linker**.

Linkers are people who help other people to:



- plan for the future



- become more confident



- achieve their goals



- access support and services in their community.



They also work with communities and mainstream service providers to help people and organisations become more welcoming and inclusive to people with disability.



By 2015-16, we plan to have 248 Linkers working with people in NSW, including 27 Aboriginal Linkers.

You can find more information about this program on page 21.

## My Choice Matters

*My Choice Matters* will help people with disability and their families to:



- increase their confidence



- increase their skills



- increase their knowledge.



This way, they can make their own choices and take control of their disability supports.

You can find more information about this program on page 21.

## Supporting you through your life

*Ready Together* will give support to people with disability at every stage of their life, including:



- when they are children at childcare or school



- when they leave school and are looking for work



- when they get older.

*Ready Together* will help people to:



- build the skills they need to go to work



- find a job



- build skills to live a more independent life, such as cooking and using public transport.

## Helping disability service providers prepare

When the NDIS is rolled out across NSW, disability service providers, other organisations and businesses will listen to you about what you need.

*Ready Together* will help service providers, and organisations like those in the local community such as sports clubs, to:



- be more user friendly



- develop new ways of working.



This way, when the NDIS is rolled out across NSW, all organisations will be able to help people better.



## Redevelopment of Large Residential Centres



In the past, some people with disability lived in **Large Residential Centres**.

A Large Residential Centre is a large building where some people with disability live together in one place.



The NSW Government is helping people who live in Large Residential Centres to move into smaller, more modern houses.

For most people, these houses will be in regular neighbourhoods near services like:



- public transport



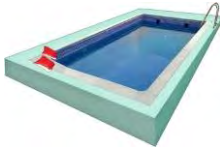
- shops



- parks



- gyms



- pools



- cinemas.

People will be able to:



- have more space to themselves



- live with a smaller number of people



- have more control over the way they live.



*Ready Together* is helping to build these houses.



The new houses will be finished by 2018.  
Some people have already moved into their new homes.

## Protecting the rights of people with disability



Another big change is that there will be two new laws in NSW.



One new law will be called the *Disability Inclusion Bill*.



The *Disability Inclusion Bill* will replace the old law, which was called the *Disability Services Act 1993*.

The new law will:



- help people with disability, service providers and the NSW Government get ready for the NDIS



- explain what the Government needs to do, both while the NDIS is being set up and once it is fully up and running



- protect the rights of people with disability



- encourage communities to be more accessible for, and inclusive of, people with disability.



A draft of the new law will be published soon.

This is so people can read it and tell the Government what they think about the new law.

Information about the new law will be available in Easy English.



Another new law is called the *National Disability Insurance Scheme (NSW Enabling) Act*.

This law means non-government organisations will provide all your future supports.

There will be careful planning to make sure you continue to get the support you need.

## Where can I find out more information?

### Support for Aboriginal People



1300 797 606



[adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/support/support\\_for\\_aboriginal\\_people](http://adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/support/support_for_aboriginal_people)

### Register your interest in moving to individualised support



1800 605 489



[livinglifemyway@facsnsw.gov.au](mailto:livinglifemyway@facsnsw.gov.au)



[adhc.nsw.gov.au/about\\_us/strategies/life\\_my\\_way](http://adhc.nsw.gov.au/about_us/strategies/life_my_way)

### My Choice Matters



1800 144 653



[mychoicematters.org.au](http://mychoicematters.org.au)

### Ability Links NSW

In the Hunter region:



(02) 4905 0700



[vinnies.org.au/ability-links-nsw](http://vinnies.org.au/ability-links-nsw)

Outside the Hunter region:



[AbilityLinksNSW@facsnsw.gov.au](mailto:AbilityLinksNSW@facsnsw.gov.au) or  
[AbilityLinksNSW-Aboriginal@facsnsw.gov.au](mailto:AbilityLinksNSW-Aboriginal@facsnsw.gov.au)

## Word list



### **Individual support**

You decide who manages the funding to pay for your disability supports, rather than a service provider.



### **Large Residential Centres.**

A Large Residential Centre is a large building where some people with disability live together in one place.



### **Linker**

Linkers are part of Ability Links NSW. They help people with disability to plan for the future, become more confident, achieve their goals, and access support and services in their community.



### ***Living Life My Way***

A framework that outlines how people in NSW can start using individualised support.



### **National Disability Insurance Scheme.**

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way of providing support to people with disability in Australia.



## ***National Disability Insurance Scheme (NSW Enabling) Act***

A law that means non-government organisations will provide all your future supports.



## **Person centred system**

A person centred system means people with a disability – and their family and carers – can choose the support they need and who provides it.



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