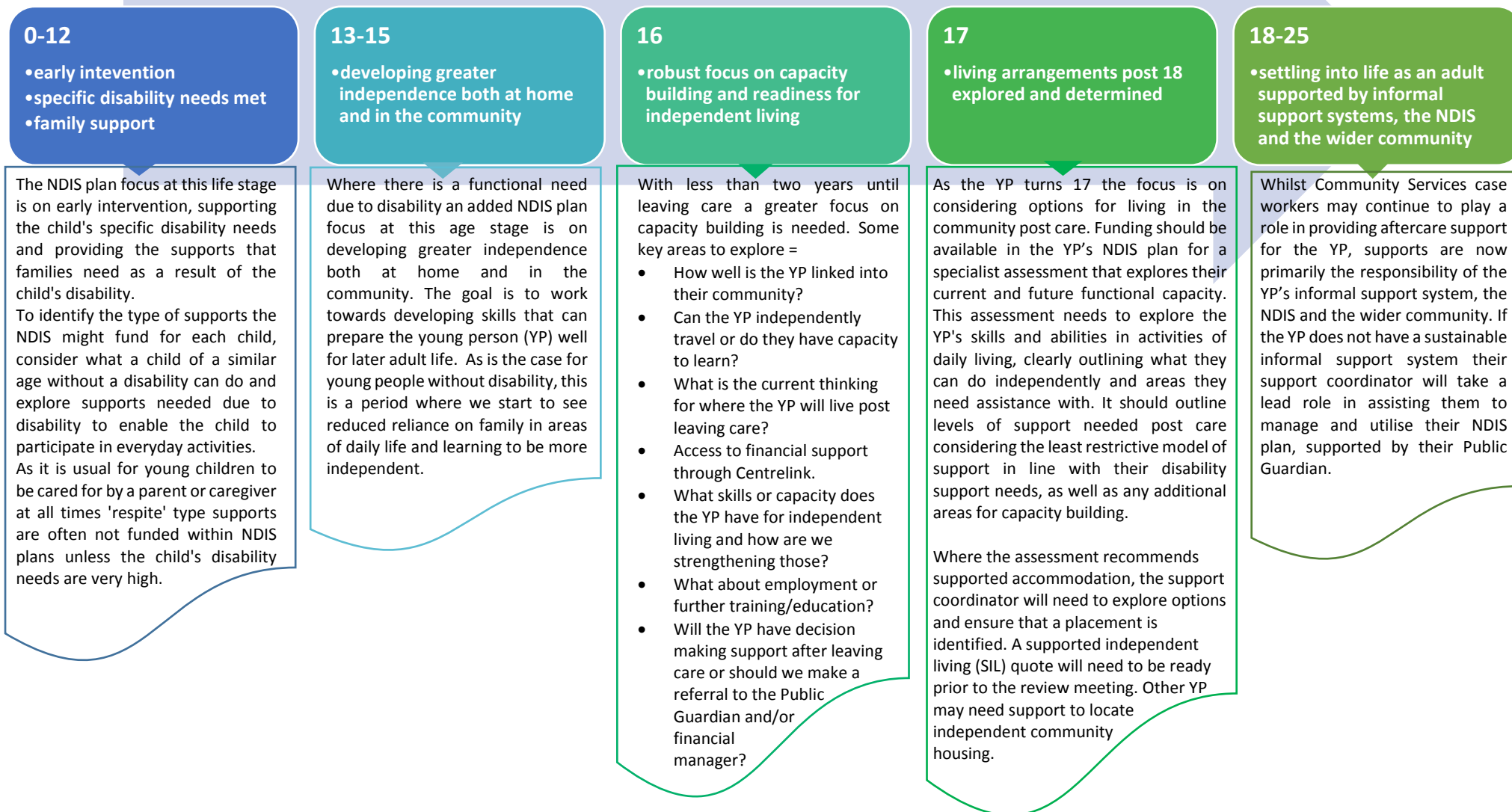


DCJ Leaving Care Planning for Young People with a Disability who are Participants of the NDIS

Both DCJ and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) play an important role in providing supports for eligible children and young people with a disability who are in the care of the Minister. Whilst DCJ provides care and protection, the NDIS supports the additional needs that a child or young person may have due to their disability. As part of the care and protection role, supporting a child or young person to obtain the best possible NDIS plan to meet their disability support needs is important across and throughout the full age spectrum. In the early years the focus of NDIS supports is on early intervention, meeting specific disability needs and providing the supports that families/carers need as a result of the child's disability. From around age 13 there is an added focus on capacity building and developing independence for later adult life as demonstrated through the diagram below.

FOCUS AREAS FOR NDIS PLANNING BY AGE STAGE




Providing each young person in care with a planned transition towards independence and opportunities to build on their strengths and skills in preparation for leaving care is a key responsibility of DCJ. And whilst the standard DCJ leaving care planning process needs to be completed for all young people, the table below provides some more specific areas to focus on within NDIS plans from age 13 to assist our young people with a disability to make a positive transition.

CHECKLIST FOR NDIS PLANNING FOR LEAVING CARE BY AGE STAGE

AGE	LC FOCUS AREA	PLANNING STAGE	NDIS PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS CHECKLIST FOR CS STAFF	COLLABORATE WITH
13+	Developing greater independence both at home and in the community. <i>Do this annually – then add on the elements identified below at age 16 & 17</i>	Preparation (annual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop an understanding of the skills, capacity, outcomes and strengths of the young person (YP) through review of assessments and school and other information gathered so far. ✓ Engage with the young person around their disability support needs ensuring that those with verbal or cognitive communication challenges are able to make their views known eg using communication tools. 	Support coordinator*, YP, school, carer/s, providers
		Pre NDIS planning meeting each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Convene a pre-NDIS planning meeting each year to review areas of success and consider and agree on disability supports that can assist strengthen capacity and skills to put forward for the new plan. Consider this in context of home, school and in the community. ✓ Compile evidence to support requests for additional and continued disability supports which can assist with capacity / skill building e.g. assessment from allied health provider, letter from school, behaviour incident data. Provide these to the NDIA planner 2-4 weeks prior to the review meeting. 	
		NDIS planning meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Attend the NDIS planning meeting as the lead advocate (as the parental representative it is critical that the CS caseworker is the lead advocate for the young person, in collaboration with any carer). ✓ Discuss success of the prior NDIS plan and present ideas for disability supports that can assist strengthen capacity and skills as agreed at the pre-meeting. Present the collated evidence in support. 	Carer (if any), YP
		Post NDIS planning meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Follow up on any agreed actions from the NDIS planning meeting and receipt of new plan. Review plan and if any issues are identified contact NDIS planner to discuss (where possible). Contact your Engagement & Family Support team representative to discuss any remaining concerns. ✓ Work with the young person and all stakeholders to implement and monitor the plan and its outcomes. 	NDIA planner, YP, carer/s, Support coordinator*
16	Robust focus on capacity building and readiness for independent living.	Pre NDIS planning meeting each year (add to the above annual conversations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Add readiness for independent living to the conversation. Explore opportunities to increase capacity through improved daily living skills (for example travel training or budgeting) and to increase focus on social/community participation so they can be well linked into an ongoing support system. Start to consider plans for where the young person might live post leaving care and supports needed. ✓ Start to consider options for employment or further training post school. ✓ Consider the need for appointment of a Public Guardian and/or financial manager. 	Support coordinator*, YP, school, carer/s, providers
		NDIS planning meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Unless the young person has a strong informal support system support coordination will be required in the new plan to support preparation for leaving care. 	
17	Living arrangements post 18 explored and determined.	Upon turning 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Determine whether an independent functional assessment will be required to assist identify the type of support model needed for the young person post leaving care. If yes, make the referral NOW. 	Support coordinator*, YP
		As soon as the assessment result is received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If the assessment recommends a supported accommodation model engage the support coordinator to explore options and ensure that a placement is identified and a SIL (supported independent living) quote is ready for the review meeting. 	
		Pre NDIS planning meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide a copy of the independent functional assessment, plan for supported accommodation and SIL quote (as relevant) to the planner at least 4 weeks before the review meeting. 	
		Post NDIS planning meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Check that SIL (as applicable) and/or other appropriate supports have been included. ✓ Assist the YP to understand their NDIS plan and who can support them into the future. 	

*although most will, not all young people in the care of the Minister will have support coordination funded in their plan

CHECKLIST TOOL: ANNUAL NDIS PLANNING TO SUPPORT LEAVING CARE (FROM AGE 13)

STAGE	TIMING	ACTIVITY		
Preparation	12 weeks prior to plan end date	RESEARCH	<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop an understanding of the skills, capacity, outcomes and strengths of the young person (YP) through review of assessments and school and other information gathered so far.
		ENGAGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engage with the young person around their disability support needs ensuring that those with verbal or cognitive communication challenges are able to make their views known eg using communication tools.
Pre NDIS planning meeting	8-12 weeks prior to plan end date	MEETING SET		<i>You should have received a phone call to set up a date for the review meeting by now – if not, follow up with NDIA</i>
		PRIORITIES AGREED	<input type="checkbox"/>	Convene a pre-NDIS planning meeting with all stakeholders to review areas of success and consider and agree on disability supports that can assist strengthen capacity and skills to put forward for the new plan. Consider this in context of home, school and in the community.
		EVIDENCE COMPILED	<input type="checkbox"/>	Compile evidence to support requests for additional and continued disability supports which can assist with capacity / skill building e.g. assessment from allied health provider, letter from school, behaviour incident data. Provide these to the NDIS planner (i.e the person who phoned to set up the review meeting) 2-4 weeks prior to the meeting.
	From age 16	CAPACITY BUILDING / FUTURE OPTIONS EXPLORED	<input type="checkbox"/>	Add readiness for independent living to the conversation. Explore opportunities to increase capacity through improved daily living skills (for example travel training or budgeting) and to increase focus on social/community participation so they can be well linked into an ongoing support system. Start to consider plans for where the young person might live post leaving care and supports needed.
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Start to consider options for employment or further training post school.
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Consider the need for appointment of a Public Guardian and/or financial manager.
	Upon turning 17	LIVING OPTIONS EXPLORED & DETERMINED	<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine whether an independent functional assessment will be required to assist identify the type of support model needed for the young person post leaving care. If yes, make the referral NOW.
			<input type="checkbox"/>	If the above assessment recommends a supported accommodation model engage the support coordinator to explore options/ensure that a placement is identified and SIL (supported independent living) quote prepared
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide assessment and other information to the NDIS planner 4 weeks prior to the review meeting.
	NDIS planning meeting	At the meeting	INFORM NEW PLAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>				Discuss success of the prior NDIS plan and present ideas for disability supports that can assist strengthen capacity and skills as agreed at the pre-meeting. Present the collated evidence in support.
From age 16		ADDED SC SUPPORT	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unless the young person has a strong informal support system support coordination (SC) will be required in the new plan to support preparation for leaving care.
Post NDIS planning meeting	Within 4 weeks of the meeting	REVIEW PLAN ADEQUACY	<input type="checkbox"/>	Follow up on any agreed actions from the NDIS planning meeting and receipt of new plan. Review plan and if any issues are identified contact NDIS planner to discuss (where possible). Contact your Engagement & Family Support team representative to discuss any remaining concerns.
	ongoing	IMPLEMENT & MONITOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work with the young person and all stakeholders to implement and monitor the plan and its outcomes.
	From age 17		<input type="checkbox"/>	Assist the YP to understand who can support them into the future to implement their NDIS plan.