

Frequently Asked Questions

**ILC Co-design program
2015**

1. What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way of providing support to people with disability across Australia. The NDIS assists people with a permanent and significant disability that affects their ability to take part in everyday activities.

The NDIS works with people to identify the supports they need to live their life and achieve their goals, such as independence, involvement in community, education, and employment. The NDIS gives people with disability, their families and carers greater choice and control over how, when and where those supports are provided.

The NDIS works with people with disability, their families and carers to develop a NDIS individual plan of supports tailored to their individual needs and goals. The NDIS will fund reasonable and necessary supports such as therapies, equipment, home modifications, mobility equipment, and taking part in community activities.

Sometimes a NDIS individual plan containing all the supports is called an Individual Funding Package.

2. What is the difference between NDIS and NDIA?

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is the government agency that runs the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

3. How can I access the NDIS?

In order to be eligible for support through the NDIS, you need to meet the following requirements:

- Have a permanent and significant disability that affects your ability to take part in everyday activities
- Be aged less than 65 when you first access the scheme
- Be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen who holds a Protected Special Category Visa
- Live in a trial site location (during the trial)

You can visit the NDIS website (www.ndis.gov.au) to learn more about the trial site locations, rollout schedule for some states or you can use the NDIS Access Checklist to find out if you might be able to receive assistance from the NDIS and the next steps.

For people living outside a trial site or rollout location, existing national and state-based services and supports will continue until the NDIS is introduced in your area or extended to your age group.

Roll out of the full scheme in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory will start progressively from July 2016.

As arrangements are known for roll out in each state and territory, they will be published on the NDIS website.

4. What is ILC?

ILC stands for Information, Linkages and Capacity Building.

The idea for Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) came from the Productivity Commission in their report into the NDIS. The Productivity Commission recognised that not everything could or should be achieved by giving people with disability greater access to individual funding packages.

They recognised that in order for people with disability to achieve social and economic participation, both individual capacity building and capacity building in the community would be required.

The Commission also recognised that there would be a group of people with disability who would not be eligible for the NDIS, but who still might need some form of support.

It is this collection of activities that will make up ILC.

There are two main areas of effort in ILC:

- Personal capacity building support for people with disability and their families to build their skills, resources and confidence to participate in the community or access the same kind of programs and services as other people.

The type of support will depend on the person and their needs. It might be information about a community service, or other Government agencies can best help that person. This type of help will be available whether or not a person also has a NDIS individual plan.

- The second area of effort is about helping mainstream services or community organisations become more inclusive of people with disability.

5. What will Local Area Coordinators do?

Local Area Coordinators (LAC) will help people with disability connect with mainstream programs and services or other activities in their local community.

They will provide assistance whether or not a person also has a NDIS individual plan.

A LAC will also work with their local community to make sure local programs and groups are accessible, welcoming and inclusive of people with disability.

They will have a very important task helping people to understand the NDIS and work with those who are eligible to access individualised funding to develop a plan. Once they have a NDIS individual plan in place, a LAC will help them make the most of that plan.

The work done by LACs will not replace services that should be done by mainstream services, such as schools, hospitals or mental health services.

6. Where will LACs be located?

Experience from the NDIS trial sites confirms the value of Local Area Coordination where it is connected in a meaningful way to the local community.

For full scheme implementation arrangements the NDIA will be looking to ensure that LAC services are based in the community and build on existing community strengths

7. How do ILC and Local Area Coordination relate to insurance principles of the NDIS?

ILC and Local Area Coordination are key components of the NDIS insurance model and will contribute to the sustainability of the NDIS by building the capacity of the community, people with disability, their families and carers which in turn will reduce the need for funding of supports for people with disability through individual NDIS plans.

8. Who can use ILC?

The focus of ILC is not on who will access it, but on the support offered. Both people who are eligible for a NDIS individual plan and those who are not eligible will be able to access ILC.

At the same time, some ILC activities are expected to be directed at particular groups, such as people with a hearing impairment or carers, or a specific region.

9. How will the NDIS decide what is and isn't funded as part of ILC?

Commonwealth and state and territory governments have all agreed on the ILC Policy. You can find a copy by following this link (<http://www.ndis.gov.au/consult-info-link-capacity-building>).

The ILC Policy provides only general guidance on how ILC might be put into practice. It provides descriptions of the type of activities that might be conducted but does not set priorities or outline how success might be measured.

The NDIA therefore has to develop something called a Commissioning Framework. The Commissioning Framework will take the high level ILC Policy and translate it into action.

ILC activities will be funded from a fixed pool of money. The NDIA will need to try to fund activities that will make the biggest difference to people's lives.

The NDIA already has some initial ideas on how to do that. They have identified some priorities and some areas of effort they would like to focus on but they now want to ask people with disability, their families and carers as well as people who work in the sector what they think of their ideas. That process is underway at the moment.

When that process is finished, the NDIA will release the Commissioning Framework so everyone will know how decisions will be made. The Framework is expected to be released at the end of the year.

10. How much money is there for ILC?

The funding available for ILC in each state or territory is not yet confirmed.

The NDIA is talking to state and territory governments about the programs and services they currently fund and when and how to manage the transition to the new set of arrangements for ILC.

When those plans are finished, the NDIA will release them to the public. The NDIA expects that will happen by the end of the year.

11. Can organisations apply for funding under the ILC?

There will be an opportunity for organisations to apply for funding under the ILC in the future – just not yet. The NDIA has to complete two pieces of work before that can happen.

The first piece of work is for the NDIA to develop the ILC Commissioning Framework to guide implementation of ILC in the future.

The second piece of work is the development of transition plans. The NDIA is talking to state and territory governments about the programs and services they currently fund and when and how to manage the transition to the new set of arrangements for ILC.

When those plans are finished, the NDIA will release them to the public.

The NDIA expects to release more information on the implementation approach and transitional arrangements for ILC before the end of 2015. This will give everyone a clearer picture of what kinds of programs, services and activities might be funded in the future.

12. What happens to existing organisations that are not going to be funded under ILC? Will they have to close?

The ILC Policy does not cover some types of services which have historically been funded through grants.

For example, ILC will not fund supports such as therapy and respite. Under the NDIS these supports will be funded through an individual plan.

ILC will also not fund reasonable adjustments that should be made by community and mainstream.

The NDIA expects to release more information on the implementation approach and transitional arrangements for ILC before the end of 2015. This will give everyone a clearer picture of what kinds of programs, services and activities might be funded in the future.

13. What is this co-design workshop all about?

The NDIA is constantly listening and learning so that we can deliver a scheme that best meets the needs of people with disability, their families and their carers, and that is sustainable into the future.

The ILC Policy has already been agreed to by the Commonwealth and all state and territory governments. This workshop is about how the NDIA should translate that high level framework into action.

The NDIA has some initial ideas on how to do that – they have identified some priorities and some areas of effort they would like to focus on. But the NDIA would like to hear what people with disability, their families and carers as well as organisations think of our ideas.

The NDIA wants to know if their ideas make sense. They want to know if they have missed anything. The NDIA is particularly interested in your thoughts about the priority areas of activity they have identified. They also want to hear what you think success might look like, and how it might be measured.

The NDIA wants to do this because they value your input and ideas. They believe the ILC Commissioning Framework will be stronger once your ideas and feedback have been incorporated.

14. What will happen to the feedback I give in this consultation?

The facilitator will summarise everything discussed at the workshops and send it through to the NDIA.

The NDIA will review all of the feedback provided and incorporate it into the next stage of the Commissioning Framework.

The facilitators will be very careful about the information they send through to the NDIA. They will not include people's names or any information which might lead to someone being identified.

The NDIA wants people to feel comfortable to share what they think. They have asked facilitators to be very careful with the information they collect and share with the NDIA.

The NDIA will publish a summary of all the feedback it receives.

15. I would like some more time to think about this. Why is this consultation being done so quickly?

The NDIA needs to have the ILC Commissioning Framework finished by the end of the year, so it can start the next phase of work early next year.

The NDIA is working to a very tight timetable to ensure plans for the introduction of ILC are ready for all states and territories. Although this has not left very much time for the workshops to occur, the NDIA is determined to hear what you think, even in this limited timeframe.

16. Can I still send in information after the cut-off date?

The NDIA would like all information from the workshops to be submitted by the end of October.

The NDIA will still accept submissions after the cut-off date. However, feedback the NDIA receives after October may not be able to be fully considered before the NDIA finalises the ILC Commissioning Framework.