



NDIS Transition: Community FAQs

What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)?

The way that some people will access support for disability is changing.

Historically, all Baw Baw residents have received disability support through the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments via a mixture of individualised funding and block-funded services.

With these changes, a small number of eligible Baw Baw residents will be transitioning to a new system: the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing support for eligible Australians with disability under the age of 65, their families and carers. It is funded by a single agency, the National Disability Insurance Agency.

It is different from the current system in that services will be entirely funded on an individual basis. As an insurance scheme, this funding will be paid in arrears, after a service has been provided.

Assistance from the NDIS is not means tested and has no impact on income support such as the Disability Support Pension and Carers Allowance.

Who will be affected?

It is anticipated that a small portion of Council's current clients, around 150-220 people (7-10%), will be eligible and transition to the NDIS.

Council will be continuing to provide aged and disability services for 90% plus of our existing clients.

When will clients enter the NDIS?

The transition period for Inner Gippsland started on 1 October 2017.

How will clients enter the NDIS?

Council's potentially eligible Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC PYP) clients are currently being contacted by the Local Area Coordinator (LAC) to test their eligibility and conduct planning meetings. Some clients may be automatically eligible if currently accessing other services.

Latrobe Community Health Service (LCHS) is the LAC for those aged 7 to 64 years old and are coordinating plan meetings. LCHS can be contacted on 1800 242 696.

Link Health and Community is the LAC for those aged 0-6 and parents need to contact them directly to start the early intervention NDIS process. Once clients are determined to be eligible, they will have a plan meeting with the relevant LAC to understand their service needs and prepare their NDIS plan. Link can be contacted on 1800 546 532.

Who is eligible to access the NDIS?

To access the NDIS, clients will need to meet minimum access requirements, including: age; residency status; disability and in some cases the client's early intervention requirements. These criteria are detailed by the NDIS at www.ndis.gov.au/people-disability/access-requirements.html

Clients must be aged under 65 years when they apply to join the scheme.

What happens to people who are not eligible?

There will be no changes to the services received by clients who are found not eligible for the NDIS.

Will Council offer services under the NDIS?

Whilst Council has historically responded to gaps in services and delivers good quality support services, we are not a specialist provider of disability services.

Council has resolved that it will not register as a service provider for the NDIS, and will not provide services as an unregistered service provider to NDIS clients.

Council considered a number of factors in coming to this decision, including impacts on clients and staff, the role of Council and NDIS pricing and administration.

Can a client opt out of the NDIS so they can stay with the Council services?

Council will be funded to provide continuity of support to existing clients up until 30 September 2018. After this time, Council will not be funded to provide disability services to eligible clients aged under 65, as it is expected that they will be supported under the NDIS.

How will Council manage the NDIS transition period?

From 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018, an in-kind period applies and Council will be funded to continue to provide existing services to existing clients.

Clients who enter the NDIS will be required to continue to obtain their current services and hours from Council via the HACC PYP program until 30 September 2018. After this point Council's HACC PYP funding will be transferred to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and clients will be able to transfer to other service providers.

Council is committed to ensuring that the move to the NDIS is as smooth as possible for our clients, and has resolved to support clients for up to 12 months after they have an approved NDIS plan in place.

What if the client has a self-managed NDIS package, can the council be their service provider?

Council will not provide services as an unregistered service provider to NDIS clients.

Which organisations are we working with during the transition?

Council is working with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Latrobe Community Health Service (LCHS) as the Local Area Coordination (LAC) service, and Link Health and Community as the the early childhood partners as the NDIS is rolled out to ensure that people have access to all the information they need and that their questions are answered.

Where can I get more information?

- Visit the NDIS website www.ndis.gov.au for more information including access and eligibility for the scheme. Alternatively, you can contact the National Disability Insurance Agency on 1800 800 110.
- A range of information and links has been included on Council's website and can be accessed at – www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/NDIS .

- Council has recruited an NDIS Transition Project Officer, Laura James, to help clients with the transition to the NDIS. Laura can be contacted by email at laura.james@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au or by phone on (03) 5625 0213.