



What it will not cover

- General housing and accommodation or homelessness-specific and emergency accommodation or routine tenancy support or home maintenance.
- Homelessness-specific services.
- Improvement of community infrastructure i.e. accessibility of the built and natural environment, where this is managed through other planning and regulatory systems and through building modifications and reasonable adjustment where required.

Rollout

It is expected that the NDIS will be rolled out fully, across Australia by 2018. The NDIS website gives updated information on the rollout process.

Where to get more information

National Disability Insurance Scheme

www.ndis.gov.au

Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA)

www.dana.org.au

Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO)

www.afdo.org.au

Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

www.fahcsia.gov.au

References

- 1 Commonwealth of Australia, 2013, *What is the NDIS?*
- 2 Commonwealth of Australia, 2013, op cit
- 3 University of Adelaide, 2001, *Addressing homelessness amongst persons with a disability: Identifying and enacting best practice*
- 4 Productivity Commission, 2013, *What individualised supports will the NDIS fund?*

The information contained in this fact sheet draws on materials provided by FaHCSIA at date of printing (May 2013) and may be subject to change.



Homelessness Australia

www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au

Homelessness Australia

@HomelessnessAus

DisabilityCare, housing and homelessness



For many years, most people with disability in Australia have faced a life-long battle to achieve what most Australians take for granted: to be included and valued and part of the community. Worse, they have struggled to get basic services, such as support to have a shower, eat meals, or get to school or work.

Disability services in Australia are being transformed by the National Disability Insurance Scheme, called DisabilityCare Australia. This scheme will fund personalised support matched to individual needs, and bring dignity and respect for people with disability.

What is DisabilityCare?

DisabilityCare will change the way disability services are delivered. Rather than funding based on historical budget allocations, funding will be based on actual assessment of need¹.

DisabilityCare will take a lifelong approach to providing care and support. Importantly, it will support choice for people with disability, their families and carers, and put people in control of the care and support they receive, based on need. And it will include a comprehensive information and referral service, to help people with a disability who need access to mainstream, disability and community supports.

The support that people receive from DisabilityCare Australia will be in addition to the support they are able to receive from mainstream systems. DisabilityCare and the following mainstream systems will work together to



Homelessness Australia

Creating a framework for ending homelessness





provide support for people with disability:

- Health
- Mental Health
- Early Childhood Development
- Child Protection and Family Support
- School Education
- Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training
- Employment
- Housing and Community Infrastructure
- Transport
- Justice

DisabilityCare will give all Australians the peace of mind to know that if they have or acquire a disability that leaves them needing daily assistance with everyday activities, or if they care for someone who has a disability, they will be supported.

Who is eligible for DisabilityCare?

Eligible people who have a permanent disability that significantly affects their communication, mobility, self-care or self-management will get the support that is reasonable and necessary to meet their needs from the scheme. This could include an individual plan and an individually funded package.

Individual support will also be given to people for whom there is good evidence that early intervention would substantially improve functioning (for example, autism, acquired brain injury, cerebral palsy or sensory impairments), and those for whom early intervention will delay or lessen a decline in functioning (for example, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease).

A core aim of DisabilityCare is to better support families and carers and to move away from the crisis model where families only receive support if they are unable to continue in their caring role and there are no other options. Instead, it will work with families before they reach crisis to make sure that the valuable informal care they provide can be sustained².

DisabilityCare and housing

Access to affordable and appropriate housing is critical for every Australian. For people with disability, it is important they have choices and opportunities to live in the home and location that best suits their circumstances. Currently, many people with disability are not able to access housing that best supports their needs, resulting



in significant unmet need for people with disability and placing stress on families and carers, particularly older carers.

Pending eligibility, DisabilityCare will fund supports that enable a person to live independently in the community – including the personal and domestic care they need, as well as home modifications to make their home accessible.

The scheme can be used to fund a part of the capital component of accommodation in situations where a person requires an integrated housing and support model. The component that the scheme would fund is the capital cost of accommodation above what individuals could be reasonably expected to contribute. The scheme will also fund the personal care and support participants require to live independently. This may include funding for modifications to the structure, layout or fittings of a home to enable an individual to utilise the home's standard fittings or facilities.

Currently there is a lack of appropriate housing for people with disability. The building of new accommodation will take time. DisabilityCare will work on the ground with organisations to explore ways that the scheme can meet the housing needs of people with disability who live in the launch sites.

DisabilityCare and homelessness

DisabilityCare will fund personalised supports related to people's disability

support needs, unless those supports are part of another service system's universal service obligation (for example, meeting the health, education, housing, or safety needs of all Australians) or covered by reasonable adjustment (as required under the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act or similar legislation in jurisdictions).

Research suggests that persons with a disability have a greater exposure to the risk of homelessness than the general population³. People with disability have diverse housing needs, so DisabilityCare will use a range of options to address those needs. In some cases, mainstream housing services will be the most appropriate solution, and where people need assistance, the role of the scheme will be to refer people to public housing or to act as their advocate in dealings with public housing authorities⁴. DisabilityCare would provide supported accommodation, including for those with significant and enduring psychiatric condition, subject to an assessment of need.

While an important goal of the scheme will be to assist people with disability to access suitable and secure housing, mainstream outreach services will still need to continue. DisabilityCare will work collaboratively with not-for-profits and other government agencies, including Centrelink, to connect people to a broader range of services.

