**Education and the National Disability Insurance**

**Scheme (NDIS) in Queensland (early launch site)**

**March 2016**

**Overview**

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a great opportunity for all eligible people with recognised disability to receive individualised supports. The NDIS as a full scheme will start in Queensland from July 2016. The scheme will be fully implemented over a period of three years, with implementation completed by 2019. The [roll-out of the full scheme](http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/qld) will be gradual across the state. The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is administering the scheme.

**Early launch**

An early launch of the scheme is underway in the local government areas of Townsville, Charters Towers and Palm Island. This will include all children and young people aged under 18 years in the Townsville and Charters Towers, and all eligible people with disability under the age of 65 on Palm Island.

The NDIA has gradually begun contacting families in the early launch areas to commence initial conversations about access to the NDIS. It is expected that the initial NDIA contact will be with families with children who are receiving specialist disability services through the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. Some of these children may also receive services from other agencies, including DET.

 **Information sheet**

 **Early intervention**

Under the NDIS Act 2013, early intervention services are identified as the responsibility of the NDIS, while the federal and state governments will continue to fund early childhood education and care. As a consequence, it is expected that children eligible for the NDIS and receiving early intervention services through the Early Childhood Development Programs (ECDPs) will gradually transition to receive this support through the NDIS.

On 26 February 2016, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) released the [NDIS Early Childhood early intervention (ECEI) approach](http://www.ndis.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/Research/NDIA-ECEI-Approach-1.pdf). The approach will provide a nationally consistent model to identify the type and level of early intervention support each child needs. Supports may include information services, emotional support or referral to mainstream services, or longer-term more intensive supports as part of a funded NDIS plan.

The Queensland Government is committed to continuity of service provision. ECDPs will continue to operate as they currently are and will do so until all children have transitioned to school or to early intervention supports through the NDIS.

The NDIA and Queensland Government will communicate to all stakeholders well ahead of any planned changes and provide regular updates as the information becomes available.

**Schools and the NDIS**

Schools will continue to support students with disability as part of their universal obligations and operate on a ‘business as usual’ basis as the NDIS commences in the early launch site. Specialist staff in schools providing support to students with disability, such as therapists, nurses and Advisory Visiting Teachers (AVTs) will not be affected as a result of the NDIS changes.

The services that schools provide to students with disability under the *Disability Standards for Education (2005)* and *the Disability Discrimination Act 1992* will continue irrespective of the NDIS eligibility of students with disability, and staff job security in providing this support will be maintained.

**School transport for students with disability**

The NDIA and Queensland Government are working to establish a long-term solution for the delivery of school transport assistance for students with disabilities. There will be no disruption to these existing services. Further information will be provided as the details about the future arrangements become available.

 **Staff engagement and support**

The department is committed to ensuring security of employment for our staff. No staff in the department will lose their job as a result of any of the NDIS changes. For more information refer to the [Queensland Government’s policy on employment security](http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au/publications/categories/policies-and-codes/employment-security.aspx).

To support staff during the NDIS transition, the department is committed to providing regular updates and working with each employee as the transition planning progresses and the NDIS early intervention model information becomes available.

Consultation with relevant unions has commenced and will continue to ensure delivery of the department’s commitment and actions throughout the transition period.

The rollout of the NDIS in Queensland will be in accordance with all relevant awards and certified agreements.

**Further information and key contacts**

**DET NDIS contact and queries**

Early launch site DET NDIS contact - Anna.BRAZIER@dete.qld.gov.au

For employee enquiries relating to the DET NDIS transition planning, please email DET.NDIS@dete.qld.gov.au

**NDIS general information and contact for parents and families**

Visit [www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/qld](http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/qld) for further information on the NDIS and to sign up for the NDIS e-newsletter.

All NDIS enquiries from families and parents should be directed to:

NDIS Hotline - 1800 800 110

For people with hearing or speech loss: TTY 1800 555 677

Speak and listen 1800 555 727

For people who need help with English TIS 131 450

**Frequently asked questions**

**Q:** Will employees working for DET be affected by the rollout of the NDIS in Queensland?

**A:** The NDIS will involve changes to the way some types of support are provided to children and young people, however, DET is committed to ensuring security of employment for our staff. No staff in the department will lose their job as a result of NDIS changes. The department will ensure timely information and support is provided to our employees about the NDIS implementation and its impacts.

**Q:** Will the NDIS impact upon employment security?

**A:** The department is committed to ensuring security of employment for all affected staff. Implementation of the NDIS will be in accordance with all relevant awards and certified agreements, and will align to the broader Queensland Government workforce management principles. The rollout of the NDIS in Queensland will be an inclusive process with support provided for all employees.