

## Assisting Families to engage with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

### Why is it so important for parents/carers to lodge an NDIS application for their child and what can a student with disability access through the NDIS.

The NDIS will fund *reasonable and necessary* supports and services needed by people with disability. Reasonable and necessary supports funded through the NDIS may be broader than those provided by ACT Education Directorate. Participants in the NDIS will have more choice and control over the types of services and supports they access, now and into the future.

The NDIS considers ‘whole of life’ goals and will fund reasonable and necessary supports to assist the participant to achieve those goals. This could include therapy, support to participate in the community, equipment purchases or assistance with daily living activities. The NDIS will not fund supports more appropriately met by other systems, including Education. The Education Directorate will continue to be responsible for supporting students to participate in school.

In order to access **Special Needs Transport (SNT)** to and from school and/or **personal care assistance at school**, it is important a student make application to participate in the NDIS. A family will need to provide evidence an application for the NDIS has been submitted before an application for SNT can be processed. Both these supports are provided by the Education Directorate as “in-kind” supports under the NDIS. This means they will appear in a student’s NDIS package and the ACT Government will account for this as a part of its contribution to the scheme. In order to be eligible for **School Leavers Employment Supports (SLES)** a student must be a NDIS participant.

### How does the student become an NDIS participant?

A parent/carer can call the ACT NDIA office on **6269 9800** and ask for Access Request Package, or the EDU NDIS team can supply an Access Request Form to the school. These forms are in hard (paper) copy.

### What sort of information do I have to give the NDIA to support my application?

As a part of the application process, you will be required to provide evidence of your child’s disability or developmental delay. This can include reports from doctors or other health professionals. If you do not have this information and your child is currently accessing a Disability Education Program in an ACT Government School, the Education Directorate may have information to support your application. You can contact the Education Directorate NDIS Team on (02) 6205 8472 to see if we can help.

## Who can assist families to engage with the NDIS?

If a parent/carer needs help with completing their Access Request Form, there are a range of services available to assist families to engage with the NDIS.

Group	Target for assistance	Contact details
NDIA ACT office	All families needing more information/ Access Request Form	Phone: (02)6269 9800 Email: <a href="mailto:communityact@ndis.gov.au">communityact@ndis.gov.au</a>
Gugan Gulwan NDIS outreach officers	Families who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	Phone: (02) 6296 8900 Email: <a href="mailto:enquires@gugan-gulwan.com.au">enquires@gugan-gulwan.com.au</a>
MI Fellowship	Families impacted by mental health issues	Phone: (02) 6246 7100 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@mifellowship.org">enquiries@mifellowship.org</a>
Imagine More	Families wanting advocacy and support	Phone: 0431 984 867 or 0458 282 545 Email: <a href="http://imaginemore.org.au/contact-us/">http://imaginemore.org.au/contact-us/</a>
EDU NDIS team	Families requiring evidence of disability to complete the Access Request Form*	(02) 6205 8472 Email: <a href="mailto:disabilityeducation@act.gov.au">disabilityeducation@act.gov.au</a>

\*As a part of the application process, parents/carers are required to provide evidence of their child's disability or developmental delay. The Education Directorate may have information to support the application.

## What happens once the parent/carer submits the Access Request Form to the NDIA?

The NDIA will send a letter to the parent/carer informing them of the outcome of their application.

If the student is eligible for the Scheme the NDIA will arrange a Planning Conversation with the family to talk about priorities, goals and reasonable supports the family will need to achieve these.

## For further information

Please contact the Education Directorate NDIS Project Team on 6205 8472.

## Links and other information

NDIS website

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/>

Your Voice/ Your Choice Program

[http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/disability\\_act/national\\_disability\\_insurance\\_scheme/a-program-to-assist-canberrans-to-prepare-for-the-ndis](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/disability_act/national_disability_insurance_scheme/a-program-to-assist-canberrans-to-prepare-for-the-ndis)