



Important information about Interchange & the NDIS

What is the NDIS?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the biggest change in the disability sector in a generation. The aim of the scheme is to provide greater choice and control for people with disabilities. Because it is such a big change the NDIS is being introduced in stages in South Australia, depending on the participant's age and where they live.

The full roll out of the NDIS is expected to be complete for all of South Australia by July 2018. NDIS is ultimately expected to support about 32,000 people with disabilities in South Australia. You can find out more about the scheme at www.ndis.gov.au.

How does it work?

As participants become eligible to transition to the NDIS, they are invited to meet with an NDIS planner to discuss their goals and the supports they require to achieve them. At the end of this process participants are given a twelve month plan with a funding package attached to purchase supports deemed "reasonable and necessary". Participants and their families can manage their own funding or they can have assistance to do this through the NDIS or a Plan Manager.

Once a participant receives a plan, they are expected to pay for the services they choose including services they are currently receiving from their NDIS plan.

What does this mean for Interchange programs?

Under the NDIS, the "block" funding that Interchange once received from DCSI is now divided up across everyone who receives a service. In effect the same amount of government funding will be used; the difference is participants will pay for their supports individually.

Interchange in South Australia and interstate have strongly resisted this move away from block funding, as we do not believe volunteer models of support fit well with the NDIS.

However, it seems we have no option but to move to the NDIS and transfer the funding to each of the matches so we can continue to provide this fantastic model of support.

Important things to know

- NDIS funding replaces existing government funding: as soon as a participant has an NDIS plan their existing funding ceases.
- Participants and their families are not paying for supports out of their own money.
- NDIS sets the price for all of the different types of support.
- Interchange charges much less than the set price for volunteer supported programs.

How does the pricing work?

Interchange **does not** charge for a volunteer's time as this is given freely.

However there are a number of costs associated with providing a safe and supportive match for the child or young person and the volunteer. These costs include:

- Advertising for and recruiting volunteers.
- The very thorough intake and assessment process for volunteers.
- The assessment of the participant and the careful matching process.
- The ongoing support and coordination of the match.
- Reimbursement to volunteers for their expenses.
- A range of legal and compliance issues around quality and safety.
- A range of insurances covering the participants and the volunteers in the event that anything should go wrong.
- Maintaining DCSI child and disability related clearances.
- Ongoing training and First Aid credentialing.
- Qualified professional staff to oversee all of these areas of providing a quality service.

What does this mean for my match?

We do not expect much to change for a volunteer match unless a participant and/or their family chooses not to use their NDIS funds to continue with their match. In which case the match will end; we will liaise with volunteers and families closer to their transition times.

As we transition to the NDIS Interchange will need to know when and how much support has been provided to a participant on a regular basis to ensure we are claiming appropriately. We are looking into ways of making this a much easier process.

If you would like to discuss the information contained in this fact sheet please feel free to call Interchange on 08132 5300 to talk with myself or Lindy.

Marianne Collins, Chief Executive Officer