NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS) INFORMATION TOOL BOX
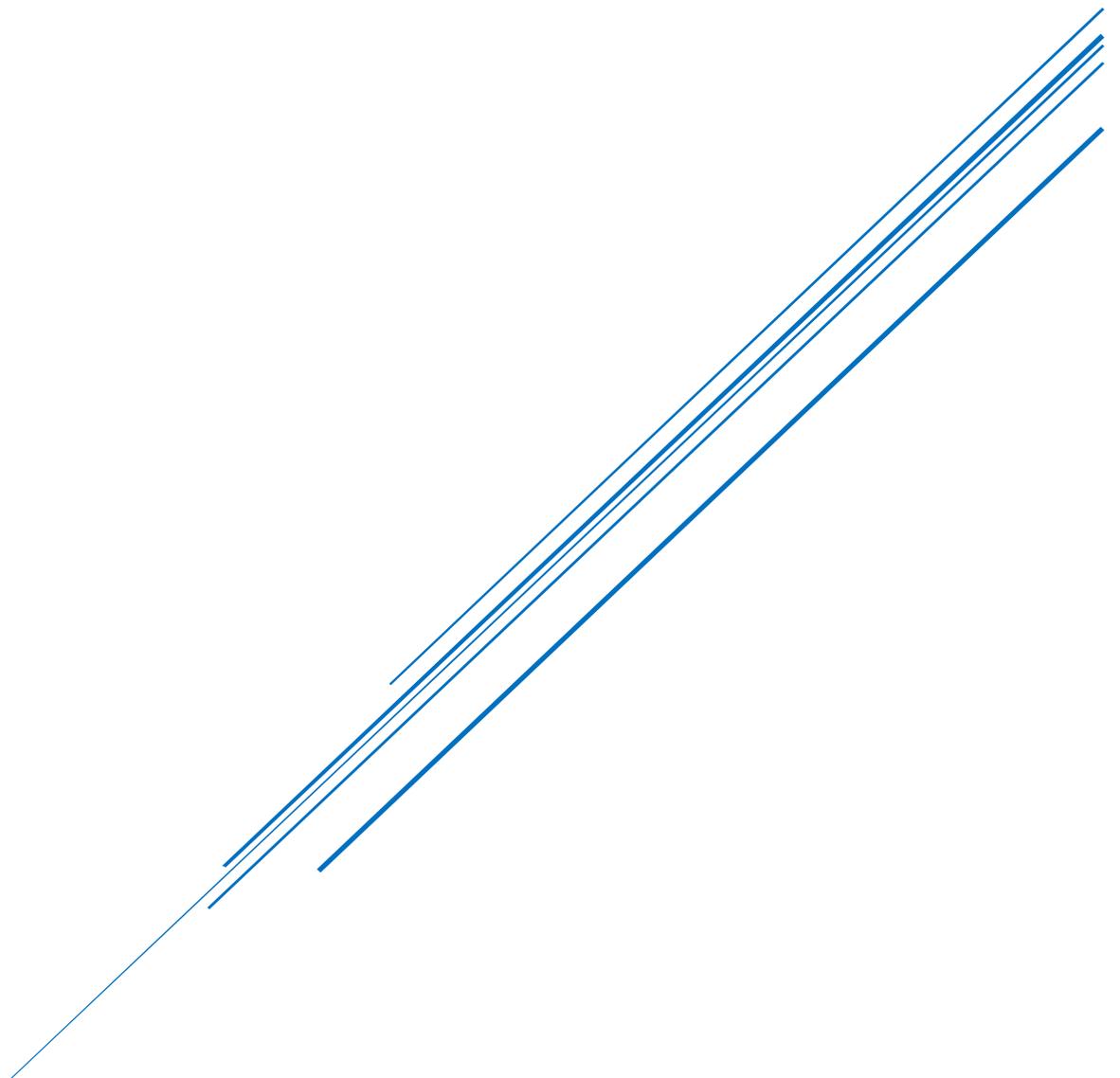
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GENERAL INFORMATION

What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will provide all Australians under the age of 65 years who have a permanent and significant disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to enjoy an ordinary life. The NDIS will help people with a disability to achieve their lifetime goals. This may include greater independence, community involvement, employment, education and training as well as an improved wellbeing. The NDIS also provides people with disability, their family and carers with information and referrals to existing support services in the community to help in their everyday life.

See The National Disability Insurance Scheme: A Quick Guide for more information.

The NDIS is dedicated to the vision of a community that values people with disabilities and the NDIS legislation and NDIS Act 2013 was passed in March 2013 and became fully operational on July 1 2016. NDIS Explained a video which explains NDIS in more detail. The following link will give you a breakdown of the NDIS Sites.

Who are the NDIA?

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is the Commonwealth government agency responsible for implementing the **National Disability Insurance Scheme** (**NDIS**). The NDIA is made up of the people who support NDIS Clients to understand the NDIS and what it offers.

For more information on the NDIA please visit NDIA Information

Who funds the NDIS?

The Federal Government will provide approximately half of the NDIS funding, and each state and territory will contribute to provide the rest. Most taxpayers have also contributed in helping to cover the federal costs through the July 2014 increase to the Medicare levy.

Who can access the NDIS?

To be eligible for the NDIS individuals must :

- be under 65 when they make an application.
- be an Australian Citizen or resident or permanent visa holder.
- meet the disability or early intervention requirements (you have a significant and permanent disability).

Individuals can contact the NDIS helpline on 1800 800 110 or visit the below website to find out if they are eligible for NDIS support NDIS Eligibility

More information & contact details for NDIS

- Website: ndis.gov.au
- Email: enquiries@ndis.gov.au
- Phone: 1800 800 110* Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm EST.
- 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

* 1800 calls are free from fixed lines; however calls from mobiles may be charged.

RTO ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

NDIS support for vocational education and training (VET)

The NDIS will fund specific support that enables participants to engage in higher education or VET courses which are related to the participant's disability.

This includes:

- ✓ Personal care on campus related to the participant's disability such as assistance with eating or self-care;
- ✓ Assistance with transport to and from campus required because of the participant's disability;
- ✓ Aids and equipment that is transportable such as a wheelchair, personal communication device or a hearing aid;
- ✓ Specialised or intensive support to transition into higher education and VET, or transition once the participant finishes studying.

NDIS **will not** fund any course fees or education materials associated with education and training that is for the purpose of developing industry skills e.g. Nationally Recognised Training (NRT) qualifications or skill sets.

Training providers have a responsibility for assisting students with their educational attainment, including through teaching and educational resources. NDIS **will not** fund the following as part of the scheme

- ➢ Employing teachers, learning assistants, facilitating access to educational resources.
- ➢ Learning-specific aids and equipment such as computers and text books.
- ➢ Making reasonable adjustments to the educational curriculum to enable access by people with disability.
- ➢ Reasonable adjustments to campus buildings, such as ramps, and fixed or non-transportable equipment such as hoists.
- ➢ Transporting students with disability on the same basis as other students for educational activities such as excursions or field trips.

Individuals and families sometimes need to contribute to funding education-related supports, such as course fees and purchasing education materials. **The Scheme will not cover these costs**.

For more information please see the [Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training fact sheet](#).

Some participants may require additional support as a result of their disability in order to undertake VET programs. NDIS clients are encourage to contact the [NDIS](#) to discuss their individual needs.

What do you need to take into consideration when enrolling a NDIS client?

Providers need to ensure they meet The Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015 when enrolling NDIS clients and should refer to the following for more information

- Chapter 2 – Enrolment
  - Clauses 5.1 to 5.3: Informing and Protecting Students

- Chapter 3 – Support and Progression
  - Clauses 1.7: Supporting Students
  - Clause 5.4: Keeping Students Informed
  - Clause 6.1 to 6.6: Managing Compliant and Appeals

Fact Sheet for RTOs: Providing quality training and assessment to students with disability

This fact sheet aims to help RTOs understand their obligations under The Standards and other relevant legislation. Developed by ASQA, in conjunction with the National Disability Coordination Officer Programme at the University of Western Sydney.

Providers who have state funding should also check with their funding body to ensure any additional requirements are met which may relate to NDIS clients.

What support is available when enrolling into a VET course?

Participants from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds may require assistance to access translation and interpreting services in order to implement the supports available in their NDIS Plan when enrolling into a VET course.

If participants or their parents or carers have English as a second language assistance from the National Translation and Interpreter Services (TIS National) is available to assist with translation.

Please clink here to access more information for Translation and Interpreter Services.

The NDIS has translated important information about the NDIS into a number of languages. Including Arabic, Auslan, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Filipino (Tagalog), French, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Macedonian, Samoan, and Vietnamese.

There are a number of **Auslan** videos explaining important information pertaining to NDIS and key concepts that will be useful for any potential students.

TRAINING AND ASSESSING INFORMATION

What pedagogy support is available for trainers / assessors?

The Core Skills for Work Developmental Framework (The Framework) describes a set of non-technical skills, knowledge and understandings that underpin successful participation in work. These skills are often referred to as employability or generic skills. They include skills such as problem solving, collaboration, self-management, communication and information technology skills.

The Framework describes the core non-technical skills that have been identified by Australian employers and industry as important for successful participation in the workforce. This framework is not a set of standards nor an assessment tool. It is not intended to replace approaches to developing these skills that are already in place, but to provide a common underpinning that is relevant across sectors.

https://www.education.gov.au/core-skills-work-developmental-framework-tools-and-resources-0

National Disability Practitioners Learning Hub contains a list of resources that can assist trainers / assessors who deliver to students with disabilities.

https://www.ndp.org.au/learning-hub

Disability Online -Australia's Disability Hub provides an alphabetical list of links to a number of national disability associations and services.

http://www.disabilityonline.community/about-disabilities

The Department of Health and Human Services has developed a selection of resources to support workplace learning and development.

https://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/disability-workers-training

Reasonable Adjustment in teaching, learning and assessment for learners with a disability: A guide for VET practitioners has been designed to assist VET trainers to make reasonable adjustment' in teaching, learning and assessment

https://www.adcet.edu.au/resource/7383/reasonable-adjustment-in-teaching-learning-and-assessment-for-learners-with-a-disability-a-guide-for-vet-practitioners/

The [University of Melbourne guide](https://www.unimelb.edu.au/accessibility/guides) has been developed for Academics and provides tips and advice that students with disability want teachers to know. Includes information on hearing impairment, mental illness, blindness, dyslexia, Multiple Sclerosis and Mobility Difficulties.

https://www.unimelb.edu.au/accessibility/guides

Resources to assist RTOs to embed inclusive practice in training have been developed by the [Department of Education, Training and Employment (QLD)](https://training.qld.gov.au/providers/inclusive/framework).

https://training.qld.gov.au/providers/inclusive/framework

The inclusive practice resources include overviews to build awareness for RTO's as well training modules to develop understanding and encourage implementation of the principles and actions outlined in the document [Inclusive learning: A way forward](https://training.qld.gov.au/site/providers/Documents/inclusive/framework/inclusive-learning-framework-strategy.pdf)

https://training.qld.gov.au/site/providers/Documents/inclusive/framework/inclusive-learning-framework-strategy.pdf

What Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) and study support is available to NDIS clients?

VALBEC (Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council) has a number of resources available to support students with literacy and numeracy issues which can be easier access of their website below.

https://valbec.org.au/about-valbec/

The Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training (ADCET) has an extensive range of resources to support NDIS clients with LLN issues.

https://www.adcet.edu.au/

Abilities Based Learning and Education Support - (ABLES) provides a suite of curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and support resources to help teachers and students.

https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/learningneeds/pages/ables.aspx

The Disability Standards for Education ensure that students with disability can access and participate in education the same as other students.

https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/learningneeds/Pages/legislation.aspx

FUSE is a great source for teachers to access resources for students of all ages.

https://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/Teacher

The Association for Children with a Disability has developed a number of resource for teachers and trainers to use for students with disabilities.

https://www.acd.org.au/resources/

Engagement support for students with additional needs contains resources, strategies and supports for specific groups of students who have additional needs.

https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/Pages/specificsupport.aspx

What health / mental support is available for NDIS clients?

NDIS has a number of different services to help individuals with psychosocial disability which can arise from mental health issues.

[Mainstream Interface – Mental Health Support](#) is a PDF document which contains more information

https://www.ndis.gov.au/medias/documents/h48/hcb/8800552026142/Factsheet-MainstreamInterfaces-Mental-Health.pdf

Mental Health Australia is the peak, national non-government organisation representing and promoting the interests of the Australian mental health sector and committed to achieving better mental health for all Australian.

https://mhaustralia.org/about-us

Reimagine Today helps adults under 65 years of age living with a mental health condition to better understand the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and what supports and services it can offer.

http://reimagine.today/

Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council (VMIAC) have six short animated videos on the NDIS designed to help people with mental illness and psychosocial disability.

https://www.vmiac.org.au/services/ndis/

Mental Health: Enhancing Student Wellbeing

[Enhancing Student Mental Wellbeing: A Handbook For Academic Educators](#) is a resource which has been developed to assist educators to support learners with mental health issues. This resources has been developed to help pedagogical innovations that promote mental health and wellbeing, enabling all students to realise their academic potential.

ADDITIONAL USEFUL RESOURCES

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person on the grounds of disability. Discrimination in this sense refers to people with disability being treated less fairly than people without. The Act also covers people who may be treated less fairly because they are relatives, friends, carers, co-workers or associates of a person with a disability. All education providers, including RTOs, have responsibilities under the DDA.

https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2014C00013

The Disability Standards for Education (Education Standards) are a legislative instrument made under section 31 of the DDA. These standards outline the legal obligations of education providers and articulate how responsibilities under the DDA should be implemented within education settings.

https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2005L00767

Department of Health and Human Services has developed a selection of resources to support workplace learning and development

https://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/disability-workers-training

VELG Training has a dedicated Knowledge Hub which contains a number of useful resources for trainers and or assessors

https://www.velgtraining.com/knowledge

ACPET has a number of webinars which can assist trainers and assessors in dealing with students with special needs. Please refer to the ACPET link below

ACPET Webinar Library