

NDIS Update 2017



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Reviews and Appeals

Family Advocacy Launches NDIS Reviews and Appeals Service

Family Advocacy are now providing a free and confidential service to support people with developmental disability and their families who have concerns about their access to the NDIS or the types of supports in their NDIS plan. Leanne Varga, has recently joined the team as the Systemic Advocacy and Leadership Facilitator, and is developing resources for families around the NDIS.



Our staff can provide phone advice on:

- how to advocate for your family member if you are not happy and wish to review their NDIS Plan
- how to understand the documentation that has been received from the NDIA
- whether proceeding to Appeal is the right option.

If you would like more information, please contact our office on 9869 0866 or email us at communications@family-advocacy.com

Appeals Update

The Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) has revealed it currently has a turnaround of 13 weeks from the date of an NDIS appeal application. For more information on how to apply for an Appeal, AAT timeframes and lodgement statistics [click here](#).

Will “Reasonable and Necessary Supports” Be Wholly or Partially Funded?

On 28 March 2017, the Federal Court overturned an Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) decision, giving an NDIS participant 100 per cent funding of his reasonable and necessary supports. The AAT had previously determined that 75% was substantial enough. Since then, the NDIA has announced that it will appeal the [Federal Court decision](#). We will keep you updated. Watch this space!

NDIS Planning Information

NDIS Jargon Explained

If you find yourself lost in the NDIS jargon, and are wondering what the difference is between a Local Area Coordinator, Planner and Support Coordination, the NDIS have prepared a [powerpoint to explain](#).

Plan Management

As an NDIS participant, you are also entitled to ask your planner or LAC for a plan manager. If you wish to self-manage your plan but do not have a lot of time, a plan manager can help you with the paperwork, accounting, or even finding the providers that you need. Having a plan manager means you can use any service provider whether they are registered with the NDIA or not. Under the NDIS funding package, it comes under the category of "Improved Life Choices". If you already have a plan, you can request a review to request a plan manager or you can wait for your 12 month review to do so. For more information, please [contact us](#).

NDIS Rollout Report

From 1 July 2017, the NDIS is rolling out in Illawarra Shoalhaven, Mid North Coast, Murrumbidgee, Northern NSW, South Eastern Sydney, Sydney, Western NSW, and Far West. The aim is that by 1 July 2018, the NDIS is operating state-wide.

NDIS Pre-Planning Tips

For ideas to assist you in planning for your NDIS package, [click here](#).

The Family Advocacy NDIS survey results are out!

Significantly, **93 per cent** of families wanted a copy of a draft plan; **over 78 per cent** were unhappy with their plan; and **68 per cent** did not feel their support needs were met. Thank you to the 100 families who responded. Together we've all made sure the Productivity Commission hears what families are experiencing.

[Click here for the submission.](#)

We are still collecting data for future advocacy, so if you would like to share more about your NDIS story with us, please call our office on 9869 0866 or email us at communications@family-advocacy.com

Advocacy and the NDIS

NDIS Joint Standing Committee Public Hearing, Penrith

Family Advocacy made verbal submissions before 5 Members of Parliament for this hearing regarding NDIS and the current challenges to families. They were recorded on Hansard, the official record of proceedings in the Australian Parliament. Access them [here](#).

NDIS Code of Conduct for Service Providers and Workers

Family Advocacy provided a submission in relation to the proposed NDIS Code of Conduct for Service Providers and Workers. Should you wish to read the submission, please contact us.

Submission to NDIA on how to improve participant awareness and use the NDIS to achieve an “ordinary life”

Family Advocacy were invited by the NDIA to provide submissions on “Intermediaries: a vital component of the NDIS in achieving an ordinary life for people with disabilities”. If you are interested in reading our submission, please contact us.

NDIS Cost “Blowout” is a misconception

To reassure families in relation to the future survival of the NDIS, a recent report has put to bed the scaremongering, saying questions over the scheme’s financial sustainability were “largely unfounded”. [Read more here](#).

