



Dear service provider

Continuity of support for people ineligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

I am writing to provide you with important information about the plans being put in place for the continuity of support for people who are not eligible for the NDIS.

The Department of Communities, Disability Services and the Commonwealth Government are working together to transition people in Western Australia to new funding arrangements. This is to ensure those people who currently receive State-administered specialist disability supports continue to receive support. As part of this process your staff may be asked about these new arrangements by individuals, family members, carers or guardians. Hence, it's important you are aware of the work that is underway.

Both the Commonwealth and State governments have obligations for continuity of support. This is defined as enabling eligible people "to achieve similar outcomes to the outcomes they were aiming to achieve prior to the introduction of the NDIS".

Broadly speaking, the Commonwealth has a continuity of support obligation for people aged 65 and over while Western Australia has a continuity of support obligation for people under 65 years of age.

The Continuity of Support (CoS) Programme

To receive support from the NDIS, a person must have been found eligible for the NDIS before they turn 65 years of age.

The Commonwealth Government's CoS Programme will support people with disability who are:

- 65 years and over or 50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, at the time the NDIS commences implementation in their region; and
- assessed as being ineligible for the NDIS at the time the NDIS commences implementation in their region; and
- an existing client of state-administered specialist disability services.

Continuity of support will be delivered either through the Commonwealth CoS Programme or through an existing aged care programme, such as the Commonwealth Home Support Programme. The Commonwealth Department of Health is responsible for administering both programs.

The CoS Programme is due to start in Western Australia on 1 July 2019.

Individuals who have turned 65 years after they have become an NDIS participant can continue to receive disability supports through the NDIS and do not need to be referred to the Commonwealth's CoS Programme.



People who are currently receiving Western Australian-administered specialist disability service **do not need to do anything** to move to the CoS Programme and will not need to be re-assessed before entering the CoS Programme.

In the coming months, the Commonwealth Department of Health will contact you with a request to complete a data validation template based on service and funding data. This is to confirm current funding amounts and outputs for individuals currently receiving Western Australian-administered specialist disability services, so the Commonwealth can understand what is needed to ensure continuity of support.

Attached is a fact sheet which you may wish to give to people who are eligible for transition to the CoS Programme to inform them of these important changes.

Further information on the CoS Programme, including the CoS Programme Guidelines and Manual, is available on the Commonwealth Department of Health website.

Visit <https://agedcare.health.gov.au/programs-services/commonwealth-continuity-of-support-programme>. If you have any questions about the CoS Programme, please email: CommonwealthCoS@health.gov.au.

Continuity of Support Arrangements (CoSA)

The Western Australian Government will provide CoSA for people who are:

- in receipt of Western Australian-administered disability programs and services; and
- aged under 65 (or aged under 50 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people); and
- ineligible for the NDIS.

A person's residency status is one of the main reasons someone is not eligible for the NDIS. As well as responsibility for people who are ineligible for the NDIS, Western Australia also has responsibility to continue supports to NDIS-eligible individuals, where the NDIS does not provide those specific supports. Identification of these people and planning for future service delivery arrangements is underway.

Further information about CoSA will be provided as soon as possible. In the meantime, people will continue to access services under existing eligibility and access policies. If you have questions regarding CoSA, please email: continuityofsupport@dsc.wa.gov.au.

We look forward to continuing our work with you to enable smooth transitions and ongoing services for people with disability.

Yours sincerely

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16 November 2018