2016 School Leavers and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

This fact sheet is for students with disability in NSW who are completing year 12 in 2016. It is also for schools and support teachers who will assess young people with disability leaving school in 2016.

What is the NDIS?

The NDIS will replace the state system. The NDIS is a new way of working that provides people with disability with choice and control over their lives and the supports they receive.

The NDIS will roll out across NSW between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2018.

What supports will be available under the NDIS?

Under the NDIS, eligible people with disability will have an opportunity to make their own decisions about what supports they need and who provides them.

The roll out of the NDIS means that instead of specific programs being run, eligible people with disability, through their plan will be able to access the reasonable and necessary supports they need in their lives. This means that many of the types of supports and activities that are available from Ageing Disability and Home Care (ADHC) will be available under the NDIS.

If a young person is already receiving disability support from the NSW Government (ADHC) then those current support arrangements will continue until the person can apply to access support under the NDIS. At that point, staff from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) will meet with the person to discuss their ongoing support needs and how these can be met through the NDIS.

Which Districts will transition to the NDIS from 1 July 2016?

The NSW and Commonwealth Governments have signed an agreement for how the NDIS will be rolled out across NSW between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2018.

People will be able to access the NDIS from 1 July 2016 (year 1) if they live in:

- Central Coast
- Hunter New England
- Nepean Blue Mountains
- Northern Sydney
• South Western Sydney
• Southern NSW
• Western Sydney

The remaining areas of NSW will transition to the NDIS from 1 July 2017 (year 2). These Districts are:

• Illawarra Shoalhaven
• Mid North Coast
• Murrumbidgee
• Northern NSW
• South Eastern Sydney
• Sydney
• Western NSW
• Far West

If you want more information about when your area will transition to the NDIS visit www.ndis.nsw.gov.au

What does the NDIS mean for the Post School Programs school leaver assessment process?

The annual school leaver eligibility assessment process is run by ADHC, in partnership with the education sectors. It is for students with disability who wish to be assessed for an ADHC funded Post School Program.

To ease the transition of NSW to the NDIS, the annual school leaver eligibility assessments will still take place across NSW in 2016. There will be changes for some students who live in Districts that will transition to the NDIS from 1 July 2016.

The school leaver eligibility assessment process currently considers school leaver’s eligibility for the ADHC funded Transition to Work or Community Participation programs. Under the NDIS, similar supports will be funded through an individualised package for eligible participants.

School leavers who live in Districts that will transition to the NDIS from 1 July 2016 can choose to participate in the school leaver assessment process, however a NSW Post School Program will not be provided. Instead, if the young person consents, ADHC will provide the assessment information to the NDIA to support an application under the NDIS. These information sharing arrangements have been in place, and working well in the Hunter launch sites in recent years.

All young people who participate in the Post School Program eligibility assessment will receive a letter from ADHC in September 2016 about the next steps.
• young people who live in year 1 districts will be supported with information from ADHC about how to apply to access the NDIS.
• Young people in year 2 districts will receive information about their assessment outcome. Young people eligible for a Post School Program, will be able to start in January 2017.

Young people who live in the Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Maitland Local Government Areas (LGAs), are not eligible to be assessed for an ADHC funded Post School Program because the NDIS has already started in these LGAs.

**What are the key dates for the school leaver assessment?**

Assessments will take place in Term 2 from **26 April to 1 July 2016**. All assessments need to be completed during this time.

The annual school leaver training for Support Teachers Transition and consultants undertaking school leaver assessments, will be provided through a series of e-learning resources and a webinar. The e-resources and the webinar will be available through the NSW Public Schools website.

The webinar will be held on **6 April 2016**. More information about how to access the webinar and the e-resources will be available soon.

**Where can I get more information on the NDIS rollout in NSW?**

If you wish to speak to someone about the NDIS you can call the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) on 1800 800 110.

More information about eligibility and planning is also available on the national website **www.ndis.gov.au**

Detailed information and resources about transition of the NDIS in NSW can be found on the NSW NDIS website **www.ndis.nsw.gov.au**

If you would like to know more about the school leaver assessment process you can contact the Life Skills, Employment and Respite information line on 1800 761 030.