

WA NDIS My Way Update



August 2014

Message from the Director General

On 1 July 2014, Western Australia entered a new phase of disability service delivery with the launch of a two-year NDIS trial. The State Government's WA NDIS My Way model is now up and running in the Lower South West, while the Commonwealth Government's NDIS model has started in the Perth Hills.

The two models share some similarities such as eligibility criteria and use of WA's quality assurance system. The main point of difference is that WA NDIS My Way is run by the State Government and builds on WA's well-established disability services model, utilising decades of experience and local knowledge to foster strong community connections. We have local people using local services with the support of local My Way Coordinators.

At the launch event in Busselton, the ethos of WA NDIS My Way was captured by 21 year-old Luther Frost-Barnes, who gave the opening speech and introduced the Minister for Disability Services, Hon Helen Morton.

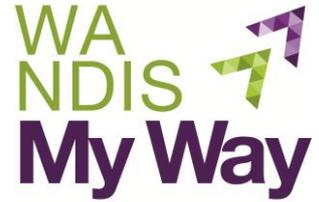
Luther is using My Way planning to reach his personal goals, such as learning to live independently, expanding his work opportunities in Busselton and studying to become a personal trainer. His recreational pursuits are also pretty impressive – quad biking and rock climbing just to name a few.

The wide choice of local services and highly personalised planning approach epitomises the main strengths of My Way to support people like Luther to reach their potential. You can view a video about Luther's story, and other people sharing their personal My Way journeys, on the [Commission's YouTube channel](#).

Looking forward, the My Way offices in Cockburn and Kwinana are now ramping up their preparations ahead of joining the trial in July 2015. We'll keep you updated with this and any other developments on the Commission's [WA NDIS My Way](#) page.

Regards
Dr Ron Chalmers
Director General
Disability Services Commission

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Meet the My Way Coordinators

Jamie Ashton

My Way Coordinator

What areas in the Lower South West do you work in?

Margaret River, Nannup, Dunsborough and Yallingup.

What have you been focusing on since WA NDIS My Way launched on 1 July?

We have been fine tuning the WA NDIS My Way model and developing the local, relationship-based approach which provides a consistent and personable experience for people with disability.

We have also been busy navigating the new IT system, never a dull moment. It has been developed so as to be user-friendly as well as consistent with NDIS requirements and procedures throughout Australia.

Agencies and families will eventually be able to access different portals within the online system, giving them more visibility and control over what they can see and access, such as access to their individual plans. This will improve accountability which, in turn, improves the quality of supports and services.

What does WA NDIS My Way mean for the people you work with?

People with disability are empowered to take control of their lives, sometimes for the first time ever.

Individuals and families are being supported to develop plans which highlight individual strengths, specific goals, aspirations and identify local services in order to build a good life in the community.

Good planning ensures people have the opportunity to lead the lives they want by way of access to supports and services that best suits their needs. Within WA NDIS My Way this may include access to additional resources where appropriate.

What are the main benefits of WA NDIS My Way?

The WA NDIS My Way planning process is enabling people with disability to consider new options and goals which they may have previously thought unachievable.

The strong focus on community connections and building on the natural supports offered by family, friends, neighbours and local community groups also benefits entire communities.

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Individuals are able to exercise more choice and control over their lives and the annual review process ensures plans are up to date as well as keeping everyone focused on good outcomes for the person with disability and their family.

Why did you become a My Way coordinator?

I became a Local Area Coordinator (LAC) 14 years ago because I was attracted to a coordinator position where I could work directly with individuals with disability and their families. Becoming a My Way Coordinator was the next logical step.

I like working with people from all walks of life. I also like to work in a way that leaves a person with their self-esteem and dignity intact. For me, that's a good day at work.

Cockburn and Kwinana ramping up trial preparations

On 1 July 2015, Cockburn and Kwinana will join the WA NDIS My Way trial and adopt a similar approach to the Lower South West trial site, based on lessons learnt in the first year of the trial.

Once fully operational, more than 2,700 people in Cockburn and Kwinana are expected to be eligible for the highly individualised planning and local supports and services available through WA NDIS My Way. Teams in the two areas will expand over the next 12 months to meet the increase in demand.

Legislation and local governance

The Disability Services Amendment Act and Regulations commenced on 1 July 2014. They have been incorporated into existing State legislation. In addition to facilitating the trial, the Regulations also incorporate the new National Standards for Disability Services.

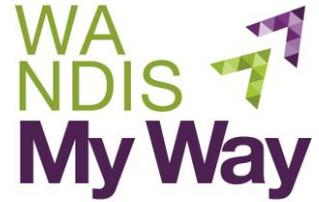
The WA Joint Steering Committee continues to meet around a number of implementation areas, including the WA independent evaluation and trial site progress. The Committee is also preparing for the first interim JSC Quarterly Statement, due at the end of August 2014.

Meanwhile, the Local Advisory Group for the Lower South West region is in full swing and currently meeting on a bimonthly basis. The Local Advisory Group is responsible for providing feedback and advice to the WA NDIS My Way Reference Group on the implementation of the trial in the local area.

WA Independent Evaluation

Stantons International has been appointed to independently evaluate the two different NDIS models, State and Commonwealth, over the two-year trial period. The outcome will inform the future of disability services in Western Australia. Stantons presented its evaluation methodology to the WA Joint Steering Committee in July 2014.

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Communications and engagement

Web updates

New material has been added to the Commission's WA NDIS My Way page, including:

- **[WA NDIS My Way Operational Policies](#)**
These policies document the WA NDIS My Way model and provide assistance to the WA NDIS My Way team in implementation. The policies will be periodically reviewed to ensure they are accurate, up-to-date and complete.
- **[WA NDIS My Way fact sheets](#)**
The fact sheets provide general information on key aspects of the WA NDIS My Way trial. Additional fact sheets will be added as the trial progresses.
- **[Am I Eligible?](#)**
This online tool has been live since mid-June. People can use it to carry out an initial check of their potential eligibility. The application has achieved AAA accreditation for website accessibility from the Digital Accessibility Centre (DAC). The Commission is the first Australian organisation to receive this DAC accreditation.

New 1800 number and Engagement Officers

To deal with the increase in enquiries about WA NDIS My Way, the Disability Services Commission has set up a new number – 1800 996 214. The phone is answered by Information and Engagement Officers in the Commission's West Perth office, who provide relevant information and contact details for the NDIS trial sites.

The Engagement Officers also work with community-based organisations and support groups to provide timely and accurate information on the WA NDIS My Way trial. Please email MyWay@dsc.wa.gov.au for further information.

The news that matters to you

To let us know what sorts of stories, updates and information you'd like to read in our monthly newsletter, please send an email to MyWay@dsc.wa.gov.au

Your feedback will help us to ensure we keep you right up to date with the news that really matters to you.



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