On Monday 1 June the mini expo was attended by 134 people affected by multiple sclerosis. The event achieved the intended purpose of raising and increasing awareness and understanding of the many service sectors, what they offer, how multiple sclerosis fits and the substantial reforms taking place across the Disability and Aged and Community sectors.

This bulletin covers some of the information provided in the short overview. For people who attended we hope this provides a summary and for people who were unable to attend we hope it starts you thinking and stimulates your interest to learn more.

Thank you to all people who were able to attend this event

SERVICE SECTORS INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

In summary there are multiple sectors each offering different services and with different criteria to access services. People affected by multiple sclerosis often require supports and services from several sectors at any one time. The significant reforms taking place in the disability, aged care, hospital and mental health sectors will increase your opportunities and your choice in service and support – it will also alter the way you have received service and support from MS – we are transitioning ourselves in line with sector developments – our state government funding will cease as opportunities open up for you to receive individually funded packages – meaning you get to choose how, when and what supports you want – from an increasing market of providers.

In time the pathways to accessing services from the various sectors will be more streamlined and more clearly articulated to enable users to be more independent in navigating and establishing a network of support relevant to their individual needs.
GENERAL FEEDBACK?

Following the presentation, participants were asked to complete a tick sheet to identify for themselves if and what supports and services they are receiving. Also which supports and services are:

- Informal – friends, family, neighbours, volunteers
- Funded – Multiple Sclerosis,
- Paid by self or subsidised

Some attendee’s were surprised by the number and range of supports they were receiving. However for other people and particularly Carers who were providing the care themselves and were keen to learn how they could begin to access supports.

The vibe out among the stalls was great with many people taking the opportunity to discuss their individual or family member’s circumstances. Individuals left having identified the next steps for accessing supports and/or arrangement for a follow-up conversation with one of the MS Consultants.

The feedback sheets strongly indicated that the forum sparked interest in what the reforms mean and a desire for further information so as to prepare and be ready for the changes in the service sectors, particularly in relation to the disability reforms with the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The expo was the first time we presented information in this format and it has given us the footprint to host in other regions, states and territories. Feedback from participants and our own reflections have provided us information as to content and structure for future forums. Our aim is to build the capacity and capability of the MS community to increase understanding of the reforms and how they may relate to you.

ABOUT AGED CARE REFORM

My Aged Care’ is the Australian Government’s gateway to the aged care system and is part of the changes designed to give people more choice, more control and easier access to the range of aged care services. ‘My Aged Care’ is made up of the website www.myagedcare.gov.au and the national contact center which can be reached via 1800 200 422.

Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) brings together a number of programs and it is expected to streamline access to entry level services and provide a standardised national assessment process and entry point via ‘My Aged Care’.

The programs being brought together include:
- Commonwealth Home and Community Care (HACC)
- National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP),
- Day Therapy Centres (DTC)
- Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged (ACHA)

The Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) will provide Home Care Packages tailored to meet the consumers specific care needs. There are four levels of Home Care packages, Home Care Level 1, 2, 3 & 4 which look to support people with basic care needs up to those people with high care needs. Services may include personal care, support services, clinical services and others to enable a person to remain living in their own home.
**THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS)?**

The NDIS is the new way of providing individualised support for eligible people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers. They provide eligible people with a flexible, whole-of-life approach to the support needed to pursue their goals and aspirations and participate in daily life. The scheme is not means tested.

The Scheme is currently in trial phase and will be rolled out across Australia.

**WHICH REGION WILL EXPERIENCE THE NDIS NEXT?**

The timetable for full scheme roll out will be announce at the end of August /early September this year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STEP AWAY FROM</th>
<th>MOVE TO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charitable welfare model where services are rationed and fragmented</td>
<td>A competitive market place that provides many more options and choice of services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Block funding</td>
<td>Individual funding to purchase a range of supports and services to enable you to meet the goals in your NDIS plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisations such as MS from making program decisions</td>
<td>Choice, control and social and economic participant. Participants choosing service providers that best meet their values and being in control of decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS facilitating the planning and goal setting</td>
<td>Participant having a conversation with NDIA Planner to determine what supports and services are reasonable and necessary to help achieve the goals</td>
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**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO LEARN MORE AND BE PREPARED FOR WHEN NDIS COMES TO YOUR AREA?**

Visit [www.ms.org.au](http://www.ms.org.au) and look up the NDIS page

Our NDIS page aims to provide information that is relevant to people affected by multiple sclerosis.

Refer to:

- Common /Frequently asked questions
- Case studies that provide some insight of the experiences of some people who have become participants of NDIS
- Checklist for people affected by multiple sclerosis. You can work through this checklist any time as it helps to:
  - Prepare your ideas and thoughts about your support network
  - Determine what is important in your life
  - Identify how individual funded supports may assist you
  - Be prepared and ready for any planning

![Visit](http://www.NDIS@gov.au) and sign up for the NDIS updates
WHAT IS COMING NEXT

Watch out for communication from ndis@ms.org.au about:

NDIS Communiqué – Two Years on of NDIS (Update)

Webinar – Get to know the service sectors, learn about the aged care and disability reforms,

Webinar - Learn about NDIS and hear the experience and impact of the NDIS

NDIS Communiqué and Webinar – Making sense of the NDIS full scheme roll out timetable

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

To ensure you receive information about the above events and information promptly please call or email MS Connect – msconnect@ms.org.au

Please contact MS for more information:

MS Connect™: 1800 042 138    Email: ndis@ms.org.au    Web: www.ms.org.au