WHAT IS THE NDIS?
- The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing individualised funding for people affected with disability or a functional impairment.
- The Scheme promotes choice, control, social and economic participation.
- The NDIS provides eligible people whole-of-life approach to the support that changes with your circumstances and needs, allowing you to pursue your goals and aspirations and participate in daily life.

WHAT ARE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MY REGION?
- Full scheme roll-out is being introduced in stages by location, service type or age depending on transition arrangements agreed by your state or territory government.
- The time table is different for each region and can be located via www.ndis.gov.au or on your local MS organisation’s website.
- If you currently receive specialist disability services and supports you will be contacted before your region transition.
- Existing commonwealth and state based supports will continue until you have an agreed funded NDIS plan.

WHAT IS THE ACCESS PROCESS FOR ME?
There will generally be two pathways to access NDIS supports and services:

PATHWAY 1: PEOPLE IN RECEIPT OF SPECIALIST DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES
- Examples of specialist disability support include: residential care, respite, community access or personal care and support.
- You will receive a call or a letter from National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)/ Local Area Coordinator (LAC) representative about access to the scheme.
- NDIA/LAC representative will check your eligibility and arrange a time for a planning conversation.
- At your planning conversation you will discuss your current supports and services and any immediate needs e.g. equipment.
- No disadvantage rule: Governments made a commitment that if you were receiving supports before becoming a participant in the NDIS you should not be disadvantaged by your transition to the NDIS. Everyone involved will ensure that the transition is as seamless as possible.

Already in receipt of Disability Services  Will receive contact from NDIA/LAC  Eligibility checked/planning commence
PATHWAY 2: THOSE NEW TO DISABILITY FUNDED SERVICES

- You might have attended an information session or have received some information about the NDIS and considered the relevance of the scheme to you.
- Eligibility can be checked by completing the access checklist (contact details).
- Contact your local NDIA office and request your own Access Request Form (ARF). This form will provide the Agency with evidence of your eligibility. MS are available for assistance in completing this form with you.
- After completing the ARF and returning it to the NDIA, you will be contacted about the next steps in the access process.
- It is advisable to be well prepared for your planning conversation. MS can support you with getting ready. We have developed a range of MS specific resources to assist you with planning preparation.

HELPFUL HINTS

Supports and Services
- Think about your current funded services and supports (if any)?

Informal Support Network
- Think about what tasks and support your family, friends and community support networks provide to you?

Reasonable and necessary

NDIA funded supports must be deemed what they call “reasonable and necessary”. This is determined using a set of criteria which takes into account whether:

- the supports are effective, beneficial, and based on current good practice
- the supports represent value for money
- what is reasonable to expect of family carers, other informal supports, and from community and mainstream services

Goals
- An example goal is: To remain employed, care for my children, and continue to live at home as independently as possible
- Think about the difficulties experienced that reduce capacity to achieve your goals