NDIS FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Many people living with multiple sclerosis do not realise that they may benefit from / be eligible for NDIS supports and services.

People with multiple sclerosis do not necessarily associate with the word ‘disability’.

However when we talk about the impacts for example of fatigue, mobility and sensory changes these words resonate more.

There are many Australians who do not know what the NDIS is, how it is bringing about fundamental and radical shift from the current disability sector and how it will transform the broader community to enable more inclusive communities.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Consider whether the NDIS could help you do the below — now, or in the future:

- My partner assists me with daily tasks – could it be for me?
- I am working part-time – could it be for me?
- It is not in my current thinking – but could it be for me?
- I feel I am managing – could it be for me?

HOW NDIS BECAME RELEVANT TO ME – SUE’S STORY

“I was contacted by MS in June 2014 to discuss potential interest and eligibility for NDIS.

“The conversation helped me to understand the process and provide me with information and offered support if required.

“At the time I was living well with my multiple sclerosis, working full time, well supported by my family and friends and did not feel that I required any supports or services.

“I kept the information and tools provided.

“Over the course of the year I began to experience some physical difficulties. Because my job requires me to stand for considerable lengths of time, this become more challenging. I made the decision to reduce my work hours but as I love my job it was important for me to continue to work.

“After a conversation with the MS NDIS project officer, who worked through the MS checklist with me, I decided it was now time to approach the NDIA to determine if I am able to have funded supports, to assist to maintain and build my strength and allow me to continue to work and participate fully in family life.

“I am currently in the process of determining my eligibility for support under Early Intervention as my goal is to continue in my current employment. I believe that if I have support early on in the form of a personalised physiotherapy plan, it would assist to manage the weakness in my right side of her body, prevent further deterioration.”
WHAT’S YOUR LEVEL OF INTEREST IN THE NDIS?

Based on the conversations that we’ve had with many people living with multiple sclerosis, we think most people fall into one of four categories:

1. People with little or no knowledge of the NDIS.
   Our initial conversation has revolved around the basic workings of the scheme; how it’s helping other people with multiple sclerosis; how it may assist them; and how to go about completing the access and eligibility process.

2. People who are aware of the scheme but don’t think it relates to them
   People often don’t associate themselves with ‘having a disability’, or they think there are people out there who need the support more than them. The conversation has centred around discussions about how their multiple sclerosis is affecting their daily life and how the NDIS can assist them to have improved quality of life.

3. People who have attempted to access the scheme but have met a roadblock
   Conversations are around the process. Frequently they are assisted by an MS organisation to complete the paperwork with regular follow-ups to determine their progress through the access process.

4. People who are well informed about the scheme
   These people have either made a decision that they are not in need of services at present or they have already become a Participant. Discussions with Participants identifies the types of supports/services in places; the outcomes they are achieving; and their level of satisfaction with the scheme

HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH US

If you would like to have a conversation about whether the NDIS is for you, please contact your local MS organisation.

For more information visit our website:  
www.ms.org.au

or visit the NDIS website:  
www.ndis.gov.au

You can also learn more about NDIS by referring to the following information sheets:

- What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)?
- Eligibility
- Real NDIS experiences