



# NDIS Full Scheme Agreement – Consultation and FAQs

## Factsheet

Western Australia (WA) is preparing to negotiate an agreement with the Commonwealth as a full scheme participant on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Stakeholder input will support WA's negotiations.

## Key milestones

### Completed:

- Planning the negotiation process
- Preliminary discussion of Full Scheme Agreement negotiations with other jurisdictions.

### Taking place in 2022:

- Stage One: Initial Stakeholder Engagement
- Development of a WA position
- Stage Two: Stakeholder Engagement following the establishment of a WA negotiation strategy
- Begin formal engagement with Commonwealth to assess negotiation starting point
- WA Cabinet Submission seeking approval to sign Full Scheme Agreement.

### Mid-2023:

- Full Scheme Agreement for implementation.

## How the disability sector and people with disability can have a say about the next Bilateral Agreement

It is important that stakeholders are involved to inform the next Bilateral Agreement and there will be opportunities to contribute to a strong and informed Western Australian negotiation position.

The Department of Communities (Communities) has developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to ensure that people with disability and the disability sector can access information on the negotiations and have a say on how requirements of future agreements can support delivery of better outcomes for Western Australian participants.

Stakeholder engagement will be timely, representative and inclusive. Its purpose is to ensure stakeholders:

- are informed and understand the WA Government's negotiation goals
- understand the agreement parameters that can be influenced
- are supportive of the final Western Australian bilateral agreement and there is community support for the strategic negotiations.

Western Australia will need to establish its negotiation position. This will include the total and future projections of the number of Western Australian NDIS participants to determine costings and responsibilities. It may also include any tailored arrangements to suit the WA community, geography and markets.

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan will also engage with government mainstream agencies to determine how the NDIS can better interact with key mainstream services like Health, Justice, Education and Housing.

## When will consultation take place?

A **first round** of engagement will take place in May and June 2022 to:

- provide more information about the negotiation process
- outline areas that stakeholders can influence
- initiate discussion about key issues, cost and risks.

A **second round** of targeted consultations will take place in July 2022 on developed options and how stakeholders can influence/inform the WA position.

## Who will be consulted?

While it is expected that 48,000 people with disability will be eligible for the NDIS, the Western Australian disability ecosystem is large and diverse, comprising of more than 500,000 Western Australians – people with disability, their families, workers and organisations.

It is important that a diverse and comprehensive range of stakeholders are consulted including people with disability, the disability sector, regional and remote disability service organisations as well as the broader WA community.

Sector stakeholders will include:

- the WA Disability Advisory Council (joint Disability Services Commission Board and WA Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability)
- the disability sector, advocacy groups and people with disability including National Disability Services, Western Australia's Individualised Services, People with Disability WA, Developmental Disability WA and the Disability Coalition of WA (comprising of 10 other community organisations)
- regional and remote representation from the Council of Regional Disability Services

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations
- the broader WA community will also be provided an opportunity to comment through an online community polling asking input on key Full Scheme Agreement positions.

## **What work has been undertaken to date?**

Negotiation preparations have commenced between officers from Communities, Department of Treasury and Department of the Premier and Cabinet to discuss how the Bilateral Agreement negotiation should proceed and clarifying roles and responsibilities.

Key actions include:

- establishment of WA governance arrangements and key milestones
- development of baseline information on disability and the NDIS in WA
- key messages for the negotiation of the Bilateral Agreement for stakeholders to support the State's shared understanding of the current situation
- a Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- an initial review of the WA Transition Agreement and other jurisdictional full scheme agreements identifying points of difference, highlighting areas negotiated by other States and Territories and learnings from their negotiations with the Commonwealth
- funding model assumptions, including population projections that will inform WA's starting negotiation position with the Commonwealth – cost scenarios will include participant projections, costing methodologies and scheme growth rates
- early informal engagement with the Commonwealth prior to starting formal negotiations in the second half of 2022.