



TWO-MINUTE TRAINING

NDIS for staff working in residential aged care facilities

MAY 2018

What is the NDIS?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new system for the Australian Government to provide funding for people with disability. It is being gradually introduced across Australia, and will replace the old disability system by mid-2019.

Can people living in residential aged care access the NDIS?

Absolutely. People living in residential aged care have the same access to the NDIS as people living in other areas of the community.

Who is eligible for the NDIS?

A resident of an aged care facility may be eligible for the NDIS if he/she:

- Is an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Is under 65 years old (when they submit their application to the NDIS)
- Has a permanent disability that makes it difficult to go about usual daily activities
- Lives in an aged care facility in an NDIS region

To find out more about NDIS eligibility, go to:

 ndis.gov.au/ndis-access-checklist

But I thought that residents in aged care facilities were supported by 'My Aged Care'?

If a resident is aged under 65 and living in residential aged care, he/she may be able to access additional support through the NDIS that is not available through aged care funding. For example, a resident might like to be involved in community-based social activities that the residential aged care facility is unable to routinely provide.

What sorts of support can the NDIS provide?

The NDIS can provide additional support for younger people in residential aged care, on top of the services available under 'My Aged Care.' The NDIS might be able to provide funded access to support such as:

- Daily personal activities e.g. assist with personal care
- Home and vehicle modification e.g. installation of ramps, rails, hoists
- Assistive technologies e.g. electric wheelchair, DAISY player for audio books
- Transport and mobility support e.g. contribution to the cost of taxi transport
- Therapeutic support e.g. allied health assessments
- Community activities e.g. support to access social groups, sports clubs or study

I hate seeing younger people who aren't happy living in residential aged care.

Could the NDIS support a resident to explore other housing options?

NDIS funding provides an opportunity for young people in residential aged care to look for alternative housing.

New accommodation for people with high and complex needs is being developed around Australia. In addition, home modifications and additional support may be funded to allow people to return to their existing homes.

There are specialist NDIS support workers called support coordinators who can help residents examine housing alternatives and develop a housing plan, including allied health assessments to ascertain whether there are home modifications that might be suitable for the resident to live in the community.

For some people, NDIS support may mean they can move out of residential aged care into their own home or specialist disability accommodation. If a young person living in aged care would like to move out, they need to tell their NDIS planner at their first meeting so that they can connect with a support coordinator.

To find out more about access to housing through the NDIS, go to: summerfoundation.org.au/ndis-housing-resources/

How can I help a resident in my aged care facility access the NDIS?

The resident will need to submit an application form – speak to the resident and their family/friends to see if they need support in putting together an application. Once you have checked that the resident is eligible, phone the NDIS on 1800 800 110 to request a copy of the Access Request Form.

Summer Foundation has a toolkit of resources that can guide you through the process of connecting a resident with the NDIS. Go to: summerfoundation.org.au/rac-toolkit

What will happen if a resident is already receiving disability support services?

If a resident is already receiving state or Commonwealth funded disability services, he/she should be contacted directly by the NDIS. Keep a look out for a letter and/or phone call from an NDIS representative when it is time to move from the old system to the NDIS. If you are worried that the resident hasn't heard from the NDIS, contact them on 1800 800 110.

For more information about the NDIS, go to the NDIS website: ndis.gov.au or the Summer Foundation website: summerfoundation.org.au/ndis



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We value your feedback about this resource – please contact the Summer Foundation at info@summerfoundation.org.au, or 1300 626 560.

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