Understanding the NDIS

A Factsheet for Parents and Caregivers (No.1)

What is the NDIS?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is Australia's first national scheme for people with disability. When it is fully rolled out, the NDIS will provide about 460,000 Australians aged under 65 who have permanent and significant disability with funding for supports and services. In the past, agencies and community organisations were funded to provide assistance to individuals, the NDIS moves away from this model and provides tailored funding directly to the person.

FASD is recognised as a permanent and significant disability by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA: the government organisation in charge of the NDIS), however as the system is tailored to the needs of each individual, you must still provide evidence indicating how your child is impacted by the disability.

Is my child eligible for the NDIS?

Your child may be eligible for the NDIS if they have:

- been diagnosed with FASD, or
- significant functional impairment due to FASD, or
- been assessed as having impairment in other neurodevelopmental domains.

What supports and services are covered by the NDIS?

The NDIS provides funding for supports and services that can assist a person in their daily life; helping them to participate in the community and to reach their goals. There are a range of supports and services that may be funded, including those related to education, employment, social participation, independence, living arrangements and health and wellbeing.

For a support or service to be eligible, it must be deemed 'reasonable and necessary'. 'Reasonable' means 'fair' and 'necessary' means something a person needs. For support or services to be considered 'reasonable and necessary', it:

- must be related to the person's impairments or disability,
- must not include day-to-day living costs not related to your disability support needs, (e.g., things you would normally have to pay for, such as groceries),
- should represent value for money,
- must be likely to be effective and work for your child, and
- should consider support given by other government services, your family, carers, networks, and the community.

See NOFASD's *Factsheet 4 – Supports and Services* for more information about specific FASD supports and services that the NDIS may cover.

How do I get started?

To get started in accessing the NDIS, you first need to check to see if your child is eligible.

To find out if you are eligible, you can access the following resources:

- NOFASD's *Factsheet 2 – Eligibility to Access the NDIS*
- You can also visit the NDIS website (https://www.ndis.gov.au/), or
- Visit a local NDIS provider in your area (https://www.ndis.gov.au/contact/locations).

Where I can find out more information about FASD?

NOFASD Australia is the National Peak Body for parents, carers and individuals impacted by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Founded in 1999 and funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health, we provide the essential bridge linking those with lived experience with researchers and clinicians.

NOFASD Australia provide a helpline for people impacted by FASD and those wanting information on how to support individuals with FASD. We also maintain an up-to-date comprehensive website with curated resources and links.

If you would like additional information about FASD or to read more about FASD and the NDIS, please visit the NOFASD Australia website.

Source:

Understanding the NDIS Booklet 1 (https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/booklets-and-factsheets).

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