

NDIS - Update for Families

Transitioning to the NDIS for families receiving FaCHSIA funding (HCWA or Better Start)

Some families at Plumtree are using FaCHSIA funding (HCWA or Better Start) to purchase services from us or from other providers. While these two programs will close as the NDIS is rolled out, **if you already have funding** you will be able to continue to use it until your NDIS plan is approved.

For families with a recent diagnosis, new registrations for FaHCSIA funding can be lodged up to a month after their area transitions to the NDIS.

If you are linked in with Plumtree, your information has already been forwarded to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) in charge of the new scheme. Please refer to previous NDIS updates on our website for more information about the transition.

What to do with remaining funding

Although the NDIS will start from July 2017 in Sydney's Inner West and South East areas, **we recommend that you do not spend all of your HCWA or Better Start funding by this date.**

It can take up to a few months for a family to receive an approved NDIS plan after their first contact about transitioning to the new scheme. As a result, some families may not start with the NDIS until later in 2017. If your remaining HCWA or Better Start funding is spent during this time, there may be a gap where you have no funded service. This is not necessarily a bad thing as it can be good to have a break sometimes, but it does mean that any services or resources you want to purchase will have to be paid by you.

As the NDIS entry date will vary for everyone, families who do not want a gap and wish to avoid paying out of pocket for services may choose to budget their remaining funding to last until the end of the year. Unspent FaHCSIA funding may be "lost" during the transition, but rest assured that the NDIS will cover the supports you need.

Check statements for budgeting

We suggest that you regularly check your remaining FaHCSIA funding. Families receiving HCWA, for example, receive a monthly Family Activity Statement that outlines services and resources purchased, funding available until 30th June this year, and your overall remaining balance. Checking statements will help you to track monthly expenditure and budget accordingly.

Plumtree is here to help

We will continue to keep you updated with developments and provide support about joining the NDIS. Plumtree regularly holds meetings and workshops to help families prepare for the NDIS transition.

Please follow our Facebook page or subscribe to our newsletter for updates.

If you have any further questions, please contact Elif Erdogan (elif@plumtree.org.au) or your key worker at Plumtree.

