



Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability

National Disability Insurance Scheme in Western Australia

Discussion Paper: Planning

Why is Planning a part of the NDIS in WA?

The concept of a personal plan has been around since the very early stages of designing a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). It was envisaged that all people who were found eligible for the NDIS would access support on the basis of an individualised plan. Each plan would describe the individual's aspirations and goals, their current circumstances and a clear pathway to achieving goals.

How has planning worked under the NDIS in Western Australia?

Over the past 3 years the NDIS has evolved through various trials around the country and in Western Australia we have seen the approaches of both the National Disability Insurance Agency trial in the Perth Hills and the WA NDIS trial in the Lower South West and Cockburn/Kwinana. In all trial areas, the following key aims of planning have remained relatively consistent:

- Capturing an individual's goals or aspirations;
- Describing the strategies that will be pursued during the period of the plan to achieve those goals; and
- Identifying any reasonable and necessary supports for that person.

While key elements of planning have remained consistent, some of the details of the planning process have changed during the trials – and this was expected.

What has been learned about planning during the trial?

We now have two years of feedback from individuals, families, carers, service providers and advocacy groups about planning. Many people are seeking flexibility in the planning process. Some people have sought intensive engagement from their WA NDIS Local Coordinator or NDIA Planner, whereas others have embraced the opportunity to be independent in designing and implementing their plan and know clearly what they need.

Other feedback received from people involved in the planning process includes:

- The quality of plans can depend on the availability and skills of the planner or coordinator.
- Planning can be time intensive.
- Plans need to be more responsive to changes in people's lives.
- Planning sometimes does not allow for specific cultural and communication needs, for example for people who have Culturally and Linguistically Diverse or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds, people with psychosocial disability, or people with complex communication needs.
- Some people are unsure about who can be involved in the planning process.
- For some people there can be uncertainty about whether the plan should just reflect a person's 'NDIS supports' or capture their whole life, including informal supports, school life, medical care, social activities.

Given the critical role that plans play in ensuring that a person is getting the right mix of supports to achieve their goals, designing a flexible, genuine planning process that meets the diverse needs of different individuals is critical.

What do you think?

1. What currently works well in planning?
2. Are there different types of planning?
3. Who should be involved in the planning process?
4. What areas of improvement could you suggest?
5. Do you have any other comments or concerns about planning?

For more information or to share your feedback

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Survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MACD_planning

This paper is also available in an Easy Read version.