

NDIS Cuppa

Questions

Summary - MAY 2022

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Elisa James



Justine Hall

Who are our presenters?



Elisa James is the mum of two NDIS participants, the Founder of Plan Tracker, and board director of Disability Intermediaries Australia (DIA).

Elisa is passionate about advocating for self direction, and pro actively invests her time and resources into the disability sector and community. Elisa presented from Darkinjung land.

Justine Hall is the State Manager for SA, Vic, Tas and WA and has worked with Plan Tracker since 2019. Justine presented from Kurna land.



News Flash

NDIS Quarterly report released - March '22

- 518668 NDIS participants
- 44% of new participants are under 7
- 47.8% of all participants are under 18
- Use of a plan manager has increased to 54% nationally
- 460 new registered providers
- Support Coordination increased to 44%
- Quarterly reports can be found here:

www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/quarterly-reports

- Other data can be found here:

<https://data.ndis.gov.au/data-downloads>



How can I spend my NDIS funds?

- Where is the "shopping list?"
 - There is no shopping list of supports - when deciding how to spend your NDIS funds, you need to consider:
- NDIS booklet 3 - page 11
 - www.ndis.gov.au/participants
 - "Reasonable and Necessary" decisions made by the NDIS align to the 7 guiding questions found in this booklet
 - My Choice Tool - Plan Tracker's online tool with the guiding questions - available here www.plantracker.com.au/my-choice-tool/
- Power of plan management
 - If you are plan or self managed, you have access to a wider range of providers and reimbursement opportunities (eg. consumables reimbursements)



Quick Fire Opinion Time

In this section, we threw some "thumbs up or down" questions at Elisa :)

1) Longer Plans -


- Plans are now commonly set at 2 or 3 year duration (except in some circumstances where they remain a year or less) - less obligation to prepare for review which traditionally has brought with it great anxiety.

- When preparing for review, there are many organisations and people who can assist, including the team from Plan Help.


<http://planhelp.com.au/>



Continued -

2) **Reviews**  now being termed "reassessments" - A participant does not necessarily need a full review anymore and can potentially qualify for a renewal - where there is no change to goals or funding (except for items of AT that may have been accessed in current plan)

- The review process is expensive for both the participant and the agency. For the participant, fewer reviews can mean reduced anxiety. But it is really important to be able to understand when you are being offered a renewal and what that means. It is also important to know that you can still ask for a review - you do have to meet some criteria though. The criteria can be found here: <https://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/your-plan-menu/plan-reviews>

Current Plans can soon be "varied" without the need for review (minor adjustments or responses to crisis) 

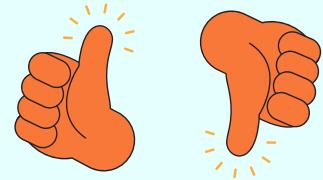
3) **Risk Assessing PM choices** (with a caveat!) 

New legislation brings with it the ability for the NDIS to assess if a participant can choose to use a registered plan management provider in addition to assessing someone's eligibility to self manage their plan.

This can work in some situations where the participant is particularly vulnerable.

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4) Service Agreements



Should they be mandatory? - Not necessarily, but definitely a good idea for some supports and services.

- You may choose not to disclose you are accessing NDIS funds to pay for some services/supports (self managers) and so you might not want or need a service agreement;
- There are some services / supports that it simply would not be practical to put a service agreement in place eg. gardening, consumable purchases;
- On the other hand, service agreements can be very handy - some plan managers such as Plan Tracker are able to quarantine service agreements. This acts as an excellent safeguard for both participant and provider;
- Plan Tracker hosted a Facebook live event with Inspires and Co Support Coordination, where we discussed service agreements, it can be found here:
<https://fb.watch/cVmLI1OA8e/>

Continued...

Plan Flexibility 👍

First announced in 2019, then 2020 and again in 2021... not much has been mentioned since.

- Greater self direction, choice and control around how to spend your NDIS funds, which can lead to better outcomes
- Allows a participant to prioritise more easily



Other Legislative Changes

Some changes effective from April 8, some will commence July 1

- Participant Service Guarantee- which sets timeframes for NDIS processes
- NDIA can now identify a particular provider to provide supports
- Clarity around eligibility criteria for people with episodic or fluctuating impairments, including people with psychosocial disability

Learn more:

<https://piac.asn.au/2021/11/02/the-proposed-changes-to-the-ndis-act-explainer-part-2/>

www.ndis.gov.au/news/7700-ndis-legislation-amendments-2022





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Join us for our next Webinar: Wednesday 20 July - registrations open soon

