

NDIS and Student Transport

This fact sheet provides information about how the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will affect student transport arrangements at Victorian Government specialist schools.

NDIS

The NDIS is the new way of providing disability support for Australians with disability, their families and carers. The Scheme will provide all Australians under the age of 65 who have a permanent and significant disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to enjoy an ordinary life.

In Victoria, the NDIS began in the Barwon trial site in 2013. In July 2016, the NDIS commenced rolling out across the state and will become available progressively based on geographical area over the next three years.

Victorians will continue to have access to the same disability support and services until the NDIS is available in their area.

IN-KIND STUDENT TRANSPORT

Student transport is in scope of the NDIS. During the rollout of the NDIS (July 2016 to July 2019), student transport will be provided by state governments as an in-kind service. In Victoria, this means the state will continue to fund and provide student transport assistance through the Students with Disabilities Transport Program (SDTP).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR STUDENTS?

During the NDIS rollout, nothing will change in the way transport is delivered for students attending specialist schools and receiving assistance under the SDTP.

Once a student meets the NDIS access requirements and has a plan, student transport will appear in their plan as an in-kind item. The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has advised that all Victorian students will see the same dollar amount in their plan for this item. Importantly, this amount does not reflect the actual value of the service the student is receiving and does not affect their other NDIS supports and services. Families do not need to pay anyone for this service nor can they use the funds for a different transport provider.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SCHOOLS?

As nothing is changing in the way student transport is delivered during the NDIS rollout, nothing should change for specialist schools in regards to their SDTP bus and/or taxi services before 2020. This includes the eligibility criteria for

the SDTP: in order to access DET student transport support, all students must meet the SDTP eligibility criteria. If an NDIS participant does not meet these criteria, the family will need to talk to the NDIA about options to get to and from school.

If schools have any queries about their SDTP services, they can continue to contact the Student Transport Unit in DET (see contact details below).

Families, NDIS planners and/or Local Area Coordinators (LACs) may contact schools with queries about the in-kind student transport item in a student's plan. The information provided in this fact sheet may assist schools in responding to these queries. Alternatively, schools can direct families, planners and LACs to the NDIS website, particularly to the [In-Kind FAQs](#).

STUDENT TRANSPORT IN THE LONGER TERM

The in-kind arrangements for student transport will stay in place in Victoria at least until 2020. It is currently not determined how student transport will be delivered under the NDIS, however, DET will continue to work with the NDIA to sort through arrangements for the SDTP's transition. Schools will be informed of any developments in this work.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- NDIS website: www.ndis.gov.au
- NDIA phone number: 1800 800 110
- Student transport information on the DET website: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/Pages/transport.aspx>
- DET Student Transport email: student.transport@edumail.vic.gov.au
- DET Student Transport phone number: 03 9637 2200