



Mission Australia Community Newsletter

Welcome to the July 2020 edition of our Mission Australia Community Newsletter. From information sessions on new topics, such as 'Finding and Engaging Service Providers' and 'Service Agreements' and the return of community sport, find out about what's happening in this month.

NDIS Online Information Sessions:

| Date | Topic | Location | Time |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| July 6 2020 | Understanding the NDIS | Via Microsoft Teams | 10.30am |
| July 9 2020 | Preparing for your Planning Meeting | Via Microsoft Teams | 10.30am |
| July 13 2020 | Self-Management | Via Microsoft Teams | 10.30am |
| July 15 2020 | Wednesday Bites: Service Agreements | Via Microsoft Teams | 11.30am |
| July 17 2020 | Implementing your plan | Via Microsoft Teams | 10.30am |
| July 22 2020 | Wednesday Bites: Engaging Providers | Via Microsoft Teams | 11.30am |
| July 23 2020 | Preparing for your Planning Meeting | Via Microsoft Teams | 5.00pm |
| July 27 2020 | Self-Management | Via Microsoft Teams | 5.00pm |
| July 31 2020 | Implementing your plan | Via Microsoft Teams | 3.30pm |

Please register via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/mission-australia-ndis-19781099158>

Once you have registered, we will send you a link to access the session and some information to help you use Microsoft Teams.

Help choosing a service provider

When their NDIS plan is approved, most participants will be tasked with finding and choosing a service provider to help them to achieve their goals. But with hundreds of service providers to choose from, picking the right one can be daunting.

To help participants find the service provider that will best suit their needs, WA Individualised Services has developed an Easy Read workbook titled "Finding and Choosing a Service Provider". The workbook has many helpful tips, including examples of questions to ask and help with the decision-making process. You can find it [here](#)



Connect Groups WA – Pay it Forward Grants



The Pay it Forward Plan (PIF) is a Connect Groups' small grants program available to peer Support Group members. The objective of PIF is to be a mental health early intervention and prevention initiative to:

- Empower peer Support Groups to achieve positive mental health outcomes for their members
- Contribute to the prevention of mental distress and/or illness, and the recovery of mental health for peer Support Group members, families and/or carers
- Further peer Support Groups' mental health supports to their members
- Promote good mental health
- Encourage peer Support Groups' mission, governance, and sustainability
- The current round of Pay it Forward is now open!

<https://connectgroups.org.au/services/current-projects/pay-it-forward/>

Mission Australia Youth Survey

The 2020 Mission Australia Youth Survey is now open.

The Mission Australia Youth Survey is Australia's largest online youth survey, providing a platform for young people aged 15 to 19 to 'speak up' about the issues that really concern them.

Mission Australia CEO James Toomey urges young people across Australia to get involved and speak up in the charity's annual Youth Survey.

"Last year we heard that many young people did not have the avenues to speak up on the issues that matter to them. The Youth Survey 2020 provides a forum for young people to highlight their personal aspirations and concerns, and express the issues they think are important in Australia today. In a climate where young people are actively seeking out opportunities to make their views known, the Youth Survey 2020 offers a safe and reliable platform to speak up. Their valuable insights provide up-to-date evidence to inform advocacy and policy change on the issues that affect their lives."

Individual Youth Survey reports are available for schools and organisations where a minimum of 100 respondents complete the survey. If you would like to request an individual report, please contact us before commencing the survey to receive a unique code.

The survey closes on the 14th August 2020, with results to be analysed and released before the end of the year. To take the survey, click [here](#)

Be My Eyes – support for people with Vision Impairment

Be My Eyes is an app that provides assistance to people with vision impairment by linking in with volunteers via video conferencing. The volunteers are then able describe what their see happening in the environment, with the aim of allowing the user to move with more confidence. Find out more here:

<https://www.bemyeyes.com/>

Inclusive Football Kicks Off!

With the return of community sport, Football West will finally be able to kick off an exciting inclusive football league, on July 26 2020.

The United Reds Football League will see Football West partner Manchester United, as well as Inclusion Solutions and Telethon. The initiative will offer opportunities for children of all abilities between 8-12 years to join a local club, wear their club shirt and belong to their communities through football. The inclusive United Reds Football League represents an inspiring opportunity for clubs, players, their families and the wider community.

The start of this league provides a further expansion and pathway from Football West's current Equal Footingball program. Find you nearest club by clicking [here](#)

NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commision Update

The State Government has announced it will defer Western Australia's transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quality and Safeguards Commission until December 1 this year.

Western Australian providers have signalled that deferring the transition of quality and safeguarding arrangements will allow them to focus on critical support issues for people with disability during the COVID-19 recovery period.

With the State expecting to sustain its COVID-19 response over the coming months service providers have expressed significant concerns about the challenges of supporting vulnerable people through the pandemic while also implementing business changes to comply with the Commission's additional reporting requirements.

In the interim, the complaints investigation and resolution area of the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO) will be allocated more resources and the existing quality and safeguarding functions performed by the Department of Communities will continue.

The State Government has also allocated \$2 million via the Sector Transition Fund to help prepare the disability sector to meet the requirements of the NDIS Commission.

Current quality and safeguarding arrangements for the Continuity of Support Programme for people aged 65 and over will also be maintained by the Department of Communities. Read the statement from Minister Stephen Dawson [here](#)

(First printed: <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/More-time-for-transition-to-Quality-and-Safeguards-Commission.aspx>)

NDIS Price Guide Update

The NDIA has released the [NDIS Price Guide 2020-21 and Support Catalogue](#), effective 1 July. The Price Guide and Support Catalogue have been updated to reflect indexed price limits as a result of the [Fair Work Commission Annual Wage Review 2019-20](#).

Participant plans will be automatically indexed from 1 July 2020, to take into account the decision of the Fair Work Commission and movement in the Consumer Price Index. Plans will be updated from 11 July but indexation will still apply from 1 July.

In response to feedback, providers will have until 30 June 2021 to transition to the new pricing arrangements for group-based supports.

From 1 July, providers will have the opportunity to use either the new streamlined pricing arrangements for group-based supports or continue to use the existing 2019-20 arrangements.

The [Assistive Technology and Consumables Code Guide](#), effective 1 July, is also now available.

The NDIA is also responding to several topics raised by stakeholders to provide greater certainty and clarity for NDIS participants and providers.

These amendments have been made as a result of extensive consultation with the sector as part of the [Annual Price Review 2020-21](#).

(First printed: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/4874-price-limit-indexation-and-clarity-about-price-guide>)

Town of Cambridge Gets Connected

The importance of being able to get online has become increasingly prevalent in recent times. To help community members in their community to improve their digital literacy and ability to access the internet the Town of Cambridge will be launching the Cambridge Community Connection program on July 27th 2020.

The library is now stocked with iPads, a Samsung tablet and laptop all pre-loaded with data which are available to borrow for those who wouldn't normally have access to technology. As part of the program, members will take part in a tuition workshop, to improve their confidence to use the device. Please note, the program is only open to participants aged over 50 with a current membership to Cambridge Library. For more information, please call 9347 6035.

Getting in touch with us...

If you have any feedback, information on exciting things happening in your community or useful resources, websites or apps that you want to share please let us know by calling any of our offices and having a chat with one of our friendly community engagement facilitators.

If you'd like to receive a copy of our email electronically please let us know by emailing:

lacwa@missionaustralia.com.au



Delivering the NDIS in your community