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DAACCS LATEST NEWS

July 2022

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Did you know?

In the 2021-2022 financial year the NDIS provided 28.66 billion dollars' worth of paid supports to NDIS participants, this is an increase of 23% on the 2020-2021 period.

As at June 2022 there were 534,655 participants accessing the scheme and increase of 15% on the 2020-2021 period.

On 1 July, some changes to the NDIS Act came into effect including:

- acknowledging the central role of people with disability in co-design and the need to recognise and respect the relationship between people with disability and their families and carers.
- introducing plan variations to make it easier and faster for participants to have their plan adjusted in specific situations without needing to go through a full plan reassessment.
- updating terminology including replacing 'plan review' with 'plan reassessment' to avoid confusion with reviews of decisions.
- clarifying that 'episodic and fluctuating conditions' (including psychosocial disability) can be considered permanent for the purposes of determining if someone might be eligible for the Scheme.
- adding protections for participants who want to use a plan manager.

COVID-19

Talk to your doctor about your COVID-19 treatment options now if you have risk factors. If you test positive to COVID-19 and are at higher risk of severe illness, you should:

- call a GP or your regular medical specialist to inform them that you have COVID-19, and
- ask about your eligibility for COVID-19 treatments, taken as a tablet or capsule.

Medications to treat COVID-19 need to be started early for the best outcomes. See 'Which COVID-19 treatments are available and how do they work?' for more information.

If you are unable to speak to a GP, you can also contact ACT COVID-19 Care@Home for an assessment. The team can be reached on 02 5124 3085 between 8am to 6pm, daily. After 6pm, you can contact Healthdirect on 1800 022 222, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Antiviral treatment is not a substitution for COVID-19 vaccination.



Fun Fact: July born folks can get so moody and antisocial. There may be times when they decide to remain alone. At such times, they will get annoyed over trivialities. This seldom happens but when it does, their friends should know that it won't last long.



LATEST NDIS NEWS

Changes to note: NDIA 2022/2023 pricing guide and Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services (SCHADS) Award – how they impact you.

From 1 July 2022 the NDIA increased the price limits for services delivered by disability support workers by 9% to address known cost pressures on providers, including:

- changes to the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services (SCHADS) Industry Award conditions that came into effect, 1 July 2022
- costs associated with managing the COVID-19 pandemic
- NDIS quality and safeguards regulatory requirements
- Fair Work Commission's recent wage decision
- superannuation guarantee charge increase.

The Annual Pricing Review showed the cost of delivering core supports was higher than anticipated during 2021-22, as a result of the impact of COVID-19 and quality and safeguarding requirements.

The NDIA will also make up to an extra \$514 million available to providers to recognise costs of keeping participants safe, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the significant overhead costs incurred by registered providers of activities of daily living and community participation supports not previously taken into account.

If you have a current NDIS plan in place, any remaining budget you have will be automatically increased to cover these pricing changes.

Increase in price limits

What has changed?

- The price limits for supports you get from disability support workers are going up by 9% from 1 July 2022.
- The minimum wage and superannuation amount your disability support workers get also went up on 1 July 2022.
- NDIA have increased the limit NDIS providers can charge for supports delivered by these workers so they can get the new minimum wage.
- NDIA has also increased NDIS prices for core supports to cover things like extra COVID-19 costs and improvements to the way they work to keep participants safe.

How does it affect you?

Your current unspent funds will be automatically increased to cover the new increased prices.



What is DAACCS doing to complying with the changes?

To comply with the recent changes, DAACCS has amended and or introduced the following sections in our service agreements, these changes are in affect as of 1 July 2022 and are applicable to all current and future service agreements with DAACCS.

Cancellation Policy

As per the NDIS Pricing arrangements 2022-2023: Where a provider has a Short Notice Cancellation (or no show), they are able to claim 100% of the agreed fee associated with the activity from the participant's plan, subject to the *NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits* and the terms of the service agreement with the participant.

Short notice cancellation of a DAACCS service, or failure to attend a scheduled service without notice (no show) by the participant, may result in the participant being charged 100% of the applicable fee for the booked service and where appropriate, funding may be claimed.

- A cancellation is a short notice cancellation if the participant:
 - Does not show up for a scheduled support within a reasonable time, or is not present at the agreed place and within a reasonable time when the provider is travelling to deliver the support; or
 - Has given less than seven (7) clear days' notice for a support
- There is no limit on the number of short notice cancellations (or no-shows) that DAACCS can claim. However, if the participant has an unusual number of cancellations, DAACCS will seek to understand why.
- Where the participant only attends for part of the scheduled service, without notice, payment for the entire booked service may be charged.
- Where the participant fails without notice to attend the scheduled service DAACCS will make every effort to contact you to confirm the planned attendance.
- No fee is payable by the NDIS, or you, for cancellation by DAACCS or any failure to deliver the agreed supports. DAACCS will make every attempt to reschedule appointments that we have cancelled.

Minimum Shift Commitment

DAACCS has minimum shift commitment of two hours. Two hours of supports against the agreed NDIS line item will be charged, at the minimum shift commitment, even if the direct support requested is less than two hours.



Provider Travel to Provide a Support

Where the participant's support is likely to be delivered by a support worker who needs to travel to a participant (either from the provider's place of business or between one participant and the next) to deliver a support, thirty (30) minutes will be charged to compensate travel costs at the same price of service that will be delivered in conjunction with a \$0.97 per kilometer fee (where the staff is required to travel to deliver a service).

If DAACCS incurs costs, in addition to the cost of a worker's time, when accompanying and/or transporting participants in the community (such as road tolls, parking fees and the running costs of the vehicle). The NDIA considers that the following would be reasonable contributions:

- \$1.00 a kilometer for a vehicle that is not modified for accessibility
- \$2.40 a kilometer for a vehicle that is modified for accessibility or a bus
- other forms of transport or associated costs up to the full amount, such as road tolls, parking, public transport fares.

Laundry, Damaged Clothing and or Property

Employers are required under the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services (SCHADS) Industry Award conditions that came into effect, 1 July 2022 to cover reasonable costs associated with repairing or replacing an employee's personal clothing. This applies to personal clothing that is soiled or damaged beyond repair while the employee is performing their duties, except for normal wear and tear.

By engaging DAACCS, you agree that the Participant/Participant's Representative is responsible for the cost of repair or replacement of damaged clothing and or property due to intentional damage or neglect that is caused by the participant (either in the community or at a residence) or a member of the participants household or a pet or a visitor who enters the participants premises with the participants/participants representative's permission.

Establishment Fee for Personal Care/Community Access (only for new participants)

In accordance with NDIS guidelines, an Establishment fee for personal care/community access applies to all plans for NDIS participants where DAACCS assists the participant with the implementation of the plan and provides at least 20 hours of personal care/ community access support per month for three or more consecutive months. The fee will operate as follows:

- \$621.70 for assisting a new participant, who is new to DAACCS.



Meet our team

Amit

Support Worker



"When there is opportunity, you have to be ready to break a diamond"

What is a fun or interesting fact about your hometown?

Mirchaiya, Nepal: Mirchaiya formerly known as Ramnagar Mirchaiya is a municipality in Siraha District in the province 2 of south-eastern Nepal. Mirchaiya is known for its green environment, ponds, mountains and mangoes



What are three items you'd take with you to a deserted island?

Water, food and a tent



If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Rice, daal and Nepalese curry

If you could change something in the world, what would it be?

Stop anger and hate among people, and I would eliminate all weapons



What is your favourite thing to do when you're not working?

Watching movies and visiting new places

What is your favourite song from your teenage years that you still rock out to when nobody else is listening?

"Aafnai Sansaar Ma Kina" by Albatross

If you were a Disney character, who would you be?

Mickey Mouse – only because I watched the Mickey Mouse show as a child



What do you like best about working at DAACCS?

Our management is flexible, cooperative and respectful to each other