The Agreement

On 5 August 2013 the Prime Minister and the Premier of Western Australia signed an Agreement for disability reform in Western Australia. From 1 July 2014, Western Australia will participate in a two-year launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) using two different models:

- WA My Way model, which will operate in the Lower South West (LSW) and Cockburn/Kwinana areas
- Commonwealth National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) model, which will operate in the Perth Hills area

The two models will be independently evaluated and the outcomes and effectiveness of each will be compared. This evaluation will help to guide changes to our state’s disability sector into the future. Approximately 8,000 people with disability will receive additional support over the two years across the launch sites.

My Way model

My Way builds on the strengths of the WA Local Area Coordination program, which has been operating since 1988. It is based on flexible, responsive and person-centred approaches which place choice and control in the hands of people with disability, their families and carers. It also focuses on building strong partnerships between the government and the community sector and maintaining close connections with mainstream supports and services.

Lower South West launch site

From 1 July 2014 the WA Disability Services Commission will run the WA NDIS My Way model in the Lower South West region\(^1\) under State legislation and operational guidelines.

---

\(^1\) The Lower South West region includes the Shires of Augusta-Margaret River, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Busselton, Donnybrook-Balingup, Manjimup and Nannup.
To ensure WA's readiness to participate in the NDIS, the Commission began accelerating the rollout of My Way in the Lower South West region from 1 July 2013.

This included:

- more intensive, individualised planning
- local decision-making and funding allocations to better respond to people’s needs
- additional resources and funding
- greater flexibility, choice and control to access supports and services based on people’s individual strategies and goals identified in their plans, rather than being limited by programs
- additional My Way Coordinators to support people accessing services, including My Way Coordinators with expertise in mental health
- a bigger regional team to offer greater support to people at the local level – including the assistance of technical officers, funding officers and allied health professionals
- alignment of funding allocations with the NDIS reference packages and principles of reasonable and necessary support

Eligibility and Access

The transition to WA NDIS My Way will mean a significantly increased number of people will be eligible to access care and support. This includes people who have a psychosocial disability, which means they need care and support in everyday life, or people who would benefit from early intervention support.

For further information about eligibility in the LSW, you can contact your My Way Coordinator or refer to the WA NDIS My Way Eligibility fact sheet.

Further information

For more information about My Way you can:

- email myway@dsc.wa.gov.au.