



## NDIS POLICY



### Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school Administration Office via phone or email.

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to explain how Wayi School can support students who receive National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funded therapy.

### Summary

- Wayi School is encouraged to support students and their parents in exercising a level of choice and control with their National Disability Insurance Scheme supports at school where it is safe and practical to do so.
- The Department has produced guidelines for Victorian Government schools related to requests for the delivery of funded therapy in schools.
- Ultimately, the decision to allow funded therapists to conduct therapy on school grounds rests with the Principal.
- The therapies funded by the National Disability Insurance Scheme are related to the student's functional whole-of-life support needs, and not for educational purposes. The responsibility for therapy for educational attainment remains with the education system. On this basis, schools should continue to employ therapists and access therapy from Student Support Services to provide educational supports.

### Background

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provides 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.

Funding is allocated to the person (with their family, carer, or advocate) who can choose who they will purchase services from and when, where, and how they receive services. Eligibility is focused on lifelong, functional impairment and capacity building.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) administers the NDIS. For more information about the NDIS, visit the [National Disability Insurance Scheme website](#).

The NDIS does not fund services that are reasonable and necessary for children to participate in education. These remain the responsibility of the Department of Education.

The NDIS replaces the Department's Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) program. The [NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention \(ECEI\)](#) approach supports children with disability or developmental delay from birth until 7 years of age.

School age children may receive funding for non-educational therapy through the NDIS. The Department has developed [Guidelines](#) on whether this therapy may be delivered in schools.

### **The NDIS and funded therapy for students**

The NDIS provides increased choice and control for children with disabilities and their families on how disability services and supports are delivered.

As a result, school principals may receive parent requests to allow NDIS funded therapists to:

- observe a student in the classroom or in the school environment
- discuss the students' goals and strengths with relevant staff
- attend a Student Support Group meeting to monitor and tailor the support provided to the student

### **Requesting Information**

The NDIS may request supporting documentation from Wayi School to support new NDIS applications and students with an approved NDIS plan. Parents, Caregivers, Providers, and NDIS staff can contact Wayi School to request their child's School Reports, Cognitive Reports, Allied Health Reports, and a letter to confirm enrolment to support student NDIS applications and plans. Due to the considerable number of students receiving vital NDIS support at Wayi School it is important to ensure effective processes of providing information in a timely manner.

It is important to ensure anyone other than parents or legal guardians who are requesting information in relation to NDIS applications or plans must provide a 'release of information' form signed by a parent / legal guardian when requesting supporting documentation. This process is coordinated by the Student Engagement & Wellbeing Leader and will be supported by administration staff at Wayi School. Collating and providing reports can take a significant amount of time, as a result requests will be processed as soon as is practicable, generally 48-72 hours from request.

### **NDIS Support Visits**

Requests for NDIS providers to attend Wayi School for the purposes of therapy provision will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Many considerations must be made to ensure that time in education is optimised for all students equitably. As per the [DET guidelines](#) Wayi School need to ensure they have the practical capacity to accommodate NDIS funded therapists providing therapy to students on school grounds. This includes having the physical space available to accommodate the therapy, and ensuring the school is equipped to manage the increased administration that allowing therapy might entail. This is a key consideration for specialist schools with high numbers of NDIS participants. The Principal must also consider the potential disruption it could cause not only for the student receiving the therapy, but also their peers, who may be impacted during their direct teaching time given the high numbers of NDIS clients at Wayi School. Any request should be directed to the Principal Class Team.

Regular on-site therapy sessions during direct teaching time cannot be facilitated at this stage.

Requests for NDIS providers to attend Wayi School for the purpose of observation can be made through the Allied Health Team via the school email. To ensure that time in education is optimised for all students equitably, providers can attend for 1-hour observations. Providers are encouraged to attend observations separately to lessen the potential disruption to education. Providers must ensure they bring along their Working with Children's Check for administration to copy prior to entering the school.

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Occupational Therapist – [hamish.cabel@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:hamish.cabel@education.vic.gov.au)

Liaison between NDIS providers and Wayi School Allied Health Team is encouraged to build consistent practices and strategies across a student's context. Written consent must be provided by parents/caregivers for communication between NDIS providers and the Wayi School Allied Health Team. The Allied Health Team function as a conduit between external services and the education teams. NDIS providers are discouraged to contact students' education staff directly.

The NDIS may fund a range of specialised supports for school-aged children with a disability. However, critically, the NDIS does not replace or duplicate the responsibilities of the education system.

In accordance with relevant anti-discrimination laws:

- Schools remain responsible for providing 'reasonable adjustments' to ensure that students with disabilities are able to access their education on the same basis as their peers.
- Schools are legally obliged to provide these adjustments, regardless of whether or not a student is also receiving NDIS support.

The NDIS does not fund therapy for the purpose of educational attainment. Therefore, the Principal is unlikely to be in breach of anti-discrimination obligations if they decline a request for NDIS funded therapy to occur at school, in circumstances where all 'reasonable adjustments' are in place for a student at the school.

### **New NDIS Applications**

New applications for the NDIS can be made with the following local organisations:

Brotherhood of St Laurence ~ LAC (Local Area Coordinator)

1H Homemaker Centre

**Broadmeadows** VIC 3037

Ph: 1300 275 634

\*New applications for students older than 7 years of age

Brotherhood of St Laurence ~ ECEI (Early Childhood Early Interventions)

Pascoe Vale Road

**Broadmeadows** VIC 3047

Ph: 1 300 275 323

\*New applications for students under 7 years of age

Brotherhood of St Laurence ~ LAC and ECEI

1A Louisa Street

**Coburg** VIC 3058

Ph: 1 300 275 634

The first step in applying for NDIS funding is for parents / caregivers to contact local LAC or ECEI. Once applications have been approved the NDIS is responsible to link families with the appropriate NDIS provider/s who deliver support services. The NDIS provide services separate from school. Students may be withdrawn from school to attend appointments. Wayi School continue to provide Wellbeing Support, OT and Speech Therapy in school. Wayi School encourages families to schedule and attend NDIS appointments outside of school hours.

### **NDIS Plans and Providers**

Once NDIS applications have been approved an NDIS Plan will be developed. This process involves the NDIS recommending and linking families with providers who provide the required services. Schools are not involved in the process of assisting families in developing NDIS Plans or coordinating links between providers.

An example of local provider services include:

DPV Health and Community Services

55 Craigieburn Road

Craigieburn VIC 3064

Ph: 1 300 234 263

DPV Health and Community Services

1 Sorrento Street

Broadmeadows VIC 3047

Ph: 1 300 234 263

DPV Health and Community Services

95 Bell Street

Coburg VIC 3058

Ph: 9355 8848

### **Related policies**

- [Students with Disability](#)

### **Relevant legislation**

- [Disability Discrimination Act 1992 \(Cth\)](#)
- [Equal Opportunity Act 2010 \(Vic\)](#)
- [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 \(Cth\)](#)
- [Victorian Charter of Rights of Rights and Responsibilities \(Vic\)](#)

### **Review cycle**

<b>Shared with School Council:</b>	March 2023
<b>To be Reviewed:</b>	March 2024