

Media Release

Changes to Disability Supports

31 January 2019



The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is now available in the Buloke Shire region. The Buloke Shire forms part of the Mallee roll-out area.

Whilst Buloke Shire Council will not be providing services under the NDIS, staff can help with connecting residents to organisations which can assist in the navigation of the scheme. If you require assistance you can call Council's Community Development Department on **1300 520 520**.

While the NDIS represents great opportunity for people with a disability to achieve their goals, as often is the case in rural areas such as Buloke, it will take some time for the national scheme to translate to our small communities. Council is actively working to deliver advocacy messages back to the higher levels of government to identify services and information gaps to ensure the best outcome for community members.

The NDIS is the new way of providing support for people with a disability, their families and carers in Australia. The NDIS moves away from the previous system of providing block funding to agencies and community organisations, to direct funding for individuals.

Reasonable and necessary supports help people with a disability achieve their goals, including independence, community involvement, employment and wellbeing. Supports may include personal care and support, access to the community, therapy service and essential equipment.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) makes decisions about whether someone is eligible to become an NDIS participant and, if so, how much funding they will receive. The NDIA can be contacted on **1800 800 110**, or accessible information is available by visiting **www.ndis.gov.au**

The NDIA appoints Local Area Co-ordination (LAC) partners who help people understand and access the NDIS. They also work with NDIS participants to develop and use their NDIS plan. Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) helps children aged 0-6 years who have a developmental delay or disability. ECEI Partners employ ECEI Coordinators who help children and their families access supports and services that are tailored to the child's needs. For Buloke, as part of the wider Mallee roll-out region, the appointed LAC and ECEI Partner is Intereach.

Intereach has visited Buloke communities in the "iVan" during last year, you may have seen the van parked in your main street or somewhere nearby. If you see the NDIS van, please make use of the information on offer and ask questions and gain support through the helpful staff.

Intereach has a strong history in working with remote, rural and regional communities across southern NSW and northern Victoria.. Intereach can be contacted on **1300 488 226**.

Advocacy groups are also able to connect with community members. The Rights Information and Advocacy Centre (RIAC) can be contacted on **03 5443 0550**.

Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability (VALiD) can be contacted on **03 9416 4003**.

End release

For further information contact Manager Customer Engagement, Travis Fitzgibbon on 03 5478 0181 or tfitzgibbon@buloke.vic.gov.au