

# DISABILITY SERVICES



The Government is committed to ensuring the well-being of Tasmanians with disability as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds.

For Tasmanians with disability the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) remains the lead agency in the response to COVID-19, and more information about COVID-19 for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants and their families and carers is available on the NDIS website.

We welcome the supports, both financial and operational, made available to organisations, as announced by the National Disability Insurance Service (NDIS). This includes:

- ensuring continuity of support during this time.
- flexibility in funded packages, including the ability to add additional resources to participant plans quickly when needed.
- addressing the issues of workforce capacity
- guidance to the use of and access to PPE
- direct contact from the NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission to the most vulnerable participants- noting this is being directed to the North West while the additional quarantine measures are in place.

The Tasmanian Government has:

- introduced a range of funding to provide support across the community which includes support to individuals and families that need to self-isolate, funding for emergency accommodation support for individuals who are unable to return to their regular place of residence, as well as funding for community mental health support.
- Invested \$15,000 towards National Disability Services to support those with disability deal with the additional challenges of COVID-19. This complements the support provided by the NDIS.
- updated the Tasmanian Government's coronavirus website with information and assistance specific to the disability sector.

- This outlines operational guidance for disability care providers, including advice for group homes and in-home support that personal care needs should continue, but with standard precautions in place.

Current NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission advice is that outside of usual clinical care requirements, there is no requirement for workers supporting NDIS participants to wear surgical masks or other items of PPE unless they are working with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

People with disability can continue to shop for essential supplies and exercise outside with their support carers, noting hand hygiene, regular surface cleaning and social distancing remain the most effective methods of stopping the spread of COVID-19.