



EARLY INTERVENTION NETWORK

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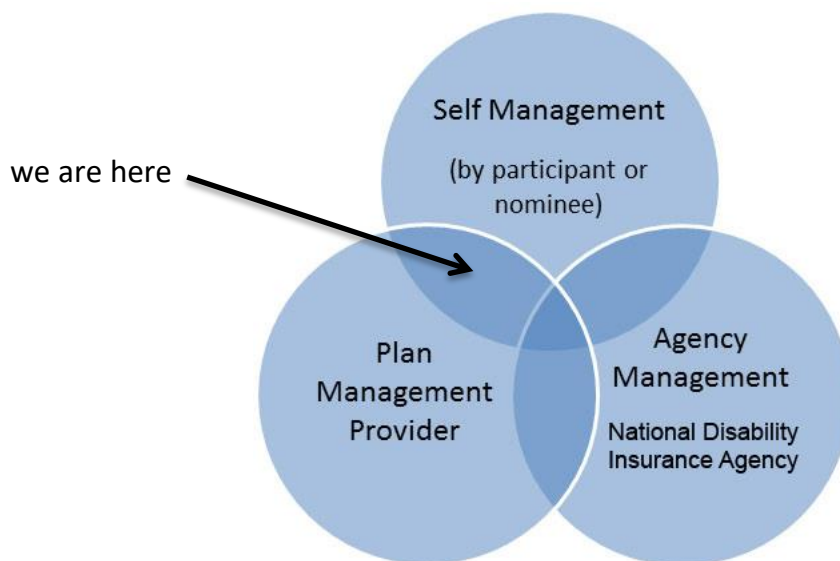
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FAQ for “transitioning” parents

What is the *Early Intervention Network*?

The Early Intervention Network (EIN) is a registered *plan management provider* that offers *financial intermediary activities* for participants of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The EIN provides special support for “transitioning” parents: parents of children currently part of the *Helping Children with Autism* (HCWA) or *Better Start for Children with Disability* (Better Start) programmes and wish to continue to receive therapy and support under the NDIS.

What is a *plan management provider*?



A plan management provider “undertakes the management of funds of the supports in a participant’s plan”.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is provided in good faith and for general information purposes only. The NDIS is in “trial” stage and developments and changes are announced constantly. Please check the date of the document (below right) and ensure that it is the latest document available at www.ein.net.au . Please alert systemadmin@ein.net.au to any technical errors you find.

Early Intervention Network

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In brief, plan management providers can assist as a *financial* intermediary or as both *financial and service* intermediary. A *financial* intermediary assists with making payments to providers, providing monthly statements and other issues pertaining to managing the financial aspects of funding. A *service* intermediary assists with finding, engaging and ongoing co-ordination and liaison with service providers. EIN offers *financial* intermediary activities only.

Some organisations registered as plan management providers also provide care and treatment services to children. They are in this sense a “one-stop shop”. EIN offers independent financial intermediary activities only. We won’t steer you towards our other services because we don’t offer any other services – there is no conflict of interest.

For these reasons we place ourselves, in the diagram above, in the overlapping area between “self-management” and “plan management provider”. We offer a low-cost, minimal intervention service for parents who already have an idea of what they want to spend their children’s funding on.

What is the NDIS?

The NDIS is the new Commonwealth programme providing funding for Australians with disabilities that is currently being rolled out across Australia.

Click [here](#) for a link to the explanation appearing on the NDIS webpage.

Is my child eligible for the NDIS?

If your child is currently receiving funding from the above mentioned programmes, then the answer is “yes”.

Click [here](#) for a link to the NDIS “Factsheet: Helping children with autism (HCWA) and Better Start” which outlines the process.

Will my child receive the same funding from the NDIS?

The short answer to this question is “yes”. The funding will be decided through a “planning meeting” where a range of factors are considered. The most important factor that is taken into account is what supports are “reasonable and necessary”. The funding will be for specific supports for your child, rather than the set allocation of \$6000 per year for two years under HCWA and Better Start.

Click [here](#) for a link to “what are reasonable and necessary supports” provided by the NDIS.

When does my child transition to the NDIS?

If your child is a current HCWA or Better Start client, they will transition to the NDIS when the roll out comes to their geographical area. For more information, select your state or territory on the NDIS rollout list (click [here](#)).

OK, so what will the Early Intervention Network actually do?

When you make EIN your plan management provider, you receive five key benefits

1. You will join a network of peers - parents in exactly the same position as you, doing their best to understand how the NDIS works while working out how best to help their child. The network operates via a secure web-based forum, much like social media (e.g. Facebook) but with some important differences. The membership will be restricted to parents with children registered with the NDIS so that you can feel secure that there are no biases or hidden salesmanship from professionals and companies with products or services to sell you. You don't need to be anxious that your comments might find their way back to the NDIS. Parents can feel secure to share their actual experiences – both good and bad – in privacy.
2. You can authorise us to receive claims from your service provider and pay them directly – **even if they are not registered with the NDIS**. Our “credit” model means that you will not be out of pocket and your service provider will be paid very quickly and reliably. You are too busy to waste time with paperwork. Plus, you have easy access to your records of payment and the status of your funds at any time.
3. You will receive regular financial reports to fulfil your obligations to NDIS as a self-manager of their children's funds and to take care of the audit “paper trail”.
4. You will receive Member Alerts regarding changes and developments in NDIS early intervention benefits, policies and rules.
5. You will have access to a free members' telephone help line.

How much is all this going to cost me?

A one-off payment of \$214.12 for financial intermediary – set up costs (support item ref. no. 14 033 0127 8 3) and monthly payments of \$90.00 for financial intermediary monthly processing (support item ref. no. 12 034 0127 8 3) under the participants plan management funding. It will *not* affect the funding available for other areas of support. Unlike the *HCWA*

and *Better Start* programmes where all participants received the same amount of funding regardless of individual differences, the philosophy of the NDIS is to efficiently meet the “reasonable and necessary” needs of each individual participant.

You are free to change to another plan management provider or Agency Management at any time, with one month notice.

What type of fund management is a good match for my needs?

Agency management is for parents who will only be seeing NDIS registered service providers. There is very little flexibility with this fund management model, and should you wish to use an unregistered service provider in the future, it will be a long wait to change the type of fund management you want to use.

Self-management is for parents with the time, capacity, and desire to manage the funds for their child. Self-management provides the maximum control, but can seem quite daunting.

Using a “registered plan management provider” allows you all the benefits and control of self-management, with all the tedious paperwork elements being taken care of for you. If this is the type of fund management you want, it is your right to request it. The NDIS is encouraging this in particular to assist parents starting out with self-management.

Is EIN the best Plan Management Provider for me?

We offer a low-cost, minimal intervention service for transitioning parents who (a) already have an idea of what they want to spend their children’s funding on, and (b) like the idea of a “credit model”. which means that you are not out of pocket. You will not need to go through the process of waiting for an invoice from each service provider, paying each invoice, and waiting for a receipt, and submitting it for reimbursement.

Parents with different needs may benefit from a Plan Management Provider who offers *service intermediary activities* (i.e. actively selecting, negotiating and liaising with service providers on an ongoing basis – which we do not provide) or *coordination of supports* (which we do not provide) in addition to *financial intermediary activities* (which we do provide). For more information on these service items, please see pp. 42, 48 and 49 of the price guide (click [here](#)).

What should I know about preparing for my first planning meeting?

1. **First contact** is normally a Local Area Co-ordinator (LAC) calling and offering a date for either a phone-call planning meeting, or an in-person planning meeting at the office or at your home. It is important that you know that it is your right to insist upon an in-person planning meeting if you feel it necessary (for example, due to language, or disability, or to

better present your child's case). However, it is often the case that the dates offered for in-person meetings are further in the future than the phone call meeting.

2. **The planning meeting**, whether by phone or in person, involves the LAC or NDIS planner following a computerised questionnaire. The answers you provides will automatically direct the interview to the next set of questions. A good planner will explain the questions and navigate you through the process to achieve your child's goals. However, some parents report that the result of this automated process was a poor match to their child's needs. To minimise this risk, you need to take an active and informed approach.

It is best for you to go armed with information. Here is our current TO DO list:

1. Write down all the current supports (if any) your child is receiving. If there are supports (such as therapy, travel assistance, support workers for assistance, or equipment) they need but haven't been receiving, write those down separately.
2. Study the NDIS "access requirements" page (click [here](#)) and any relevant links at the bottom of the page under "Access Kit additional information".
3. Study the relevant links at the bottom of the "participants" page (click [here](#)) and then in turn the links they lead to, in particular:
 - a. "My NDIS Pathway" which explains NDIS and the various stages involved such as "my first plan", starting the plan, and reviewing the plan as well as helping to familiarise yourself with NDIS language (click [here](#))
 - b. The videos on the "my first plan" page (click [here](#)) are worth watching for more ideas on how NDIS can be used
 - c. The "Developing your first plan" fact sheet (click [here](#))
 - d. The "Getting ready for your planning conversation" fact sheet (click [here](#)) is immensely useful, and has a section at the bottom under "Next Steps" where "request plan management funding" should be written down so you don't forget to ask for it during the meeting
 - e. The most important resource yet can be downloaded from the "understanding your plan and supports" page (click [here](#)) under "files". This is a vital document for any parent that wants to go into the meeting feeling like they have enough information to be in control.
4. Study the differences between "agency management", "self-management" and a "plan management provider". Some information is provided in the NDIS operational guidelines, (click [here](#)). This FAQ also contains additional information that might aid in the decision-making process.
5. Develop your statement of participant supports (click [here](#) for more information) to bring to the meeting. This is like an "ideal" plan, and it should reference specific support

categories and support line items found in the Price Guide for your area (click [here](#)). Your statement of participant supports must include a statement which specifies how the management of the funding for supports under the plan is going to be managed.

6. Collect reports, assessments, and other supporting documentation to strengthen your argument for the “general supports” and “reasonable and necessary” supports that you included in your statement of participant supports.
7. Be clear going into the meeting what sort of plan management you want: “agency management”, “self-management” or a “plan management provider” and don’t allow them to convince you otherwise.

I like the sound of this, what’s my next step?

Contact Sophie at info@ein.net.au with any questions and ask for a copy of the service agreement for you to have a look at.