

THE NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS) AND ACT Artificial Limb Scheme (ACTALS): INFORMATION FOR CLIENTS.

There have been changes to the way artificial limbs (prosthetics) are funded in the ACT as a result of the introduction of the NDIS.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (or NDIS) is a new way of funding individualised support for people with disability, aged under 65 at the time of first entering the scheme, that involves more choice and control and a lifetime approach to a person's support needs.

The NDIS **has now commenced** in the ACT. All clients will be eligible to receive funding for their artificial limb as part of the scheme and need to include this in their funding plan.

What are the changes to artificial limb funding?

Previously clients who required an artificial limb received funding through the Artificial Limb Scheme. In the ACT, the ACT Artificial Limb Scheme was previously managed by the ACT Health Prosthetics and Orthotics Service. The funding for artificial limbs has now been transferred to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

Why do clients need to become participants in the NDIS?

As the funding arrangements have changed, it is now important for those people wanting to use the Prosthetics and Orthotics Service to become NDIS participants and obtain funding in the client's NDIS plan for this service.

When do clients transition to the NDIS?

As the ACT is a trial site for the NDIS, a transition schedule for eligible people to start their planning conversation with the NDIA has been developed. By July 1st all ACT residents who are eligible for the NDIS will have been able to transition onto the scheme. All clients can now commence applying for the scheme.

The phasing timetable is available at: <http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-usour-trial-sites/ndis-act>

What happens when clients enter the NDIS?

To enter the NDIS, clients need to lodge an Access Request Form to enable their eligibility to be assessed. NDIS eligibility criteria identifies that all clients who require an artificial limb will be covered by the scheme.

Entering the Scheme involves having a planning meeting with an NDIS planner, determining goals and finalising a plan for reasonable and necessary supports to be funded. For clients just requiring the funding of artificial limbs, the NDIS has organised a simple process to assist with this.

For more information on the NDIS, please visit www.ndis.gov.au, or call 1800 800 110, or http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/disability_act/national_disability_insurance_scheme

How are repairs and maintenance funded?

Funding for repairs and maintenance of artificial limbs should be included in your NDIS Plan. Clients should ensure this is included during the planning stage. If you or your planner require assistance in identifying what services are needed from the Prosthetics and Orthotics Service, we are able to provide that information to you.

What about clients who are not eligible for the NDIS?

For these clients – people aged over 65 at the time of first entering the scheme and those who are not eligible it is “business as usual”. The ACT Artificial Limb Scheme will continue to assess applications and provide funding as per existing eligibility.

For further information contact RACC intake on 6207 7292.

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