

Update on which of our members can provide hearing services to NDIS participants

Our members have raised with us that they have been receiving conflicting information about whether or not they need to become an Office of Hearing Services (OHS) contracted service provider in order to provide services that fall under the Hearing Services Program to National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants.

All NDIS participants (i.e. regardless of how their NDIS funds are managed)

Audiology Australia has earlier confirmed with the OHS and National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) that audiologists must be an OHS contracted service provider in order to be able to provide services that fall under the Hearing Services Program to all NDIS participants until full rollout of the NDIS in mid-2019.

A broader range of assistive devices and services for hearing are available to NDIS participants, in addition to those available under the Hearing Services Program (i.e. the Community Service Obligation (CSO) and Voucher schemes). In order for audiologists to be able to

provide these additional services to all NDIS participants, they must register as a provider directly with the NDIA, even if they are an OHS contracted service provider.



NDIS participants with self-managed funds

We have received reports from NDIS participants who have decided to self-manage their NDIS funding and receive the full range of services from audiologists who are not OHS contracted service providers.

This is possible because, as stated in the [Provider Toolkit Module 2- Registering as a Provider \(1 July 2016\)](#), it is not mandatory to become a Registered Provider in order to provide services to participants who are self-managing their plans or are using Plan Management services.

“Self-managed ‘funding’ is used by the NDIS to refer to payment of the entire package directly to the participant (or nominee) who is responsible for all aspects of administration of the package.” (Independent Advisory Council, Promoting self-direction in the National Disability Insurance Scheme, available online [here](#)). The decision as to whether or not self-managed funding is an option for each NDIS participant is made by the NDIA in accordance with the [National Disability Insurance Scheme \(Plan Management\) Rules 2013](#) and the [NDIA Operational Guideline – Planning and Assessment – The Plan Management Decision](#).

If you have any questions regarding this article or require further information please do not hesitate to contact Audiology Australia’s Research and Policy Manager- Dr Sandra South at Sandra.South@audiology.asn.au

Office of Hearing Services (OHS) Review of Service Items and Fees

As part of the transition of hearing services to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), the OHS is reviewing the structure of service items and fees under the Hearing Services Program (the program).

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has been engaged to complete the review. They have recently been managing an initial information gathering exercise with a small number of stakeholders in the hearing industry and consumer groups, including Audiology Australia.

After this initial phase PwC will release a public discussion paper outlining the options for change in September 2016. We encourage all our members to provide feedback on the discussion paper via the PwC website in September 2016.

Read more about the review here:

[2016/17 Contracted Service Provider Notice \(CSPN\) from the OHS](#)

[Information about the Review of Service Items and Fees on the OHS website](#)

[Project Scope- Review of Service Items and Fees on the OHS website](#)