



Fact Sheet for Service Providers and Primary Health Networks

Transition support arrangements for clients remaining in the National Psychosocial Support - Transition program on 1 July 2020

Purpose

The purpose of this fact sheet is to outline arrangements for any clients remaining in the Commonwealth National Psychosocial Support – Transition (NPS-T) program on 30 June 2020.

On 29 March 2020 the Australian Government in recognition of the impact of COVID-19 on mental health announced a \$74 million Mental Health Support Package for people experiencing the impacts of this pandemic.

This package included \$28.4 million to continue support for the transition of remaining psychosocial support clients to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or to the Continuity of Support (CoS) program. Further information on this package of initiatives can be found at <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/11-billion-support-more-mental-health-medicare-and-domestic-violence-services-0>

What is the National Psychosocial Support Transition (NPS-T) program?

The NPS-T program provides psychosocial support for people who were accessing Partners in Recovery, Support for Day to Day Living, or Personal Helpers and Mentors on 30 June 2019 and had not yet tested their eligibility for the NDIS and transitioned to either the NDIS, or CoS.

The National Psychosocial Support – Transition program commenced on 1 July 2019 and was due to cease on 30 June 2020. The Australian Government announced a continuation of transitional arrangements on 29 March 2020 for a further 12 months from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, when it is expected all clients will have transitioned to ongoing support arrangements.

What's going to change?

Remaining NPS-T clients who have submitted an access request for the NDIS should continue to be supported under transition arrangements from 1 July 2020 until they have developed and activated their NDIS plan, or transitioned into CoS supports if deemed ineligible. The Department of Health is aware that COVID-19 may change the way PHNs and service providers deliver supports to clients at this time.

The Department encourages service providers to develop a transition plan for each remaining client to ensure clients are accessing the NDIS or CoS arrangements by 30 June 2021.

How will funding be distributed to PHNs?

Funding will be distributed to PHNs based on the predicted number of clients remaining in the NPS-T program on 30 June 2020.

How should services be contracted?

PHNs should take into consideration existing service arrangements for clients to minimise disruption at this time. Where there will be a change in service provider a warm handover process should commence to assist clients to transition smoothly to a new provider.

How can I find out more information?

Service providers are encouraged to contact their PHN for further information. PHNs should contact the Department of Health at: psychosocialsupport@health.gov.au

How will people get psychosocial support?

