

14 September 2018

## NDIS calculator counts the cost of disability support

With more than 460,000 people expected to receive a disability support package from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) by 2020, the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network (NBMPHN) has developed an online calculator to help people understand the costs of support services that someone may be eligible for under the NDIS.

Launched today at the Nepean Disability Expo in Penrith, the NDIS Support Calculator ([www.NDIS-calculator.com.au](http://www.NDIS-calculator.com.au)) is believed to be the first tool of its kind that helps to simplify the process of developing a funding package. It calculates the cost of a variety of support services across 15 different categories and generates a printable report that can be used in discussions with an NDIS planner.

Under the NDIS, participants are provided with funding that enables them to access support services tailored to help them achieve greater independence, community participation, employment and improved wellbeing. This could include assistance with daily activities, transport, domestic care, home modifications and therapeutic support.

The calculator was developed by Wentworth Healthcare, provider of the NBMPHN. It was originally designed for Support Facilitators delivering services through the Partners in Recovery program in the Nepean Blue Mountains region but it is relevant for people in New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland and Victoria.

It can be used by current and potential NDIS participants, carers, allied health professionals and support facilitators working with NDIS participants.

As part of a twelve month trial, the online calculator has received widespread support from disability advocacy organisations such as Carers NSW, Disability Advocacy NSW and Wellways Australia as well as other Primary Health Networks (PHNs).

Wentworth Healthcare CEO, Lizz Reay, says "NBMPHN's mental health team is no stranger to innovation. We have developed a number of tools to make accessing local health services easier, such as the very popular Mental Health Help website ([www.MentalHealthHelp.com.au](http://www.MentalHealthHelp.com.au)), which helps people find the right mental health service to support their needs.

"In response to the issues of health transport in our region raised through extensive consultation with the community, NBMPHN also developed a dedicated online directory outlining local transport options suitable for accessing health services ([www.HealthTransport.com.au](http://www.HealthTransport.com.au)) and most recently, we developed a new After Hours website ([www.afterhourshealth.com.au](http://www.afterhourshealth.com.au)) which allows healthcare professionals and community members to access up-to-date information on the range of After Hours health services available in our region," said Ms Reay.

ENDS

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The Nepean Blue Mountains PHN is a programme run by  
Wentworth Healthcare – a not for profit organisation which  
works to improve health for the communities of Blue Mountains,  
Hawkesbury, Lithgow and Penrith.