



Australian Government
Department of Health



The Commonwealth Continuity of Support (CoS) Programme

Client information

What you need to know

Easy Read version



How to use this document



This information is written in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.



This document has been written by the Australian Government Department of Health. When you see the word 'we', it means the Australian Government Department of Health.



This Easy Read document is a summary
of another document called the CoS Client Handbook.



You can find the other document on our website at
<https://agedcare.health.gov.au/programs/common-wealth-continuity-of-support-programme/client-resources/cos-client-handbook>



You can ask for help to read this document.
A friend, family member or support person may
be able to help you.

What's in this document?

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What is the Commonwealth Continuity of Support Programme?

The **Commonwealth Continuity of Support Programme** is often called CoS.

This is a programme for older people who:



- are getting disability services now



- won't be a part of the **National Disability Insurance Scheme** (NDIS).



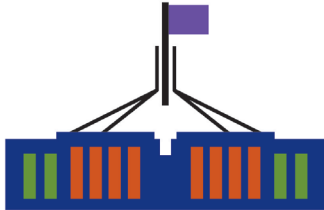
The NDIS is a way of providing care and support to people with disability in Australia.



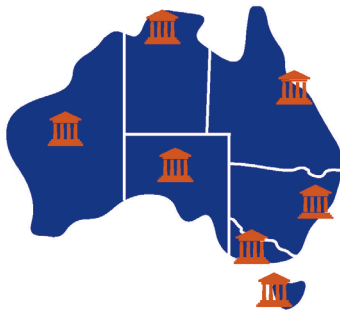
The CoS Programme will make sure that you keep getting the same support and services that you get now.



The CoS Programme will start when the NDIS reaches your area.



The Australian Government will manage the CoS Programme.



Your state or territory government used to manage these services.

What you need to know about the CoS Programme

As part of the CoS Programme:



- your services will not change



- your fees will not change – if you didn't pay fees before, you won't have to now



- you can stay with the same service provider or we can organise a new **service provider** – the person or organisation that provides you with supports



- if your needs change, your service provider will help you find other options



- if you had an **Individual Support Package** (ISP), you can keep this. An ISP is funding to pay for the support that you need.

Who can use the CoS Programme?

You can use the CoS Programme if you:

65+



- are 65 years old and over



- are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person aged 50 years old and over

NDIS
X

- can't use the NDIS



- are getting **specialist disability services**.

Specialist disability services are for people who need extra support to do things like:



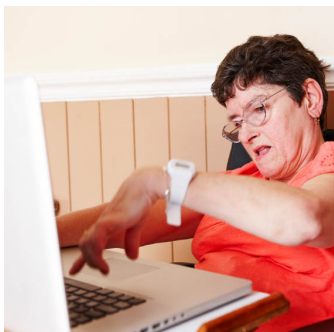
- live in the community



- live at home



- be a part of the community



- be more independent.

When can you use the CoS Programme?



When you start using the CoS Programme depends on where you live.

NDIS



The NDIS is starting in different areas at different times.

CoS



This means that people will join the CoS Programme at different times.



Everyone will join the CoS Programme by 30 June 2020.



Your service provider can tell you when you will join the CoS Programme.



You can also check the **CoS website** to find out when the CoS Programme will start in your area.

What supports and services will you get?

You can keep using any specialist disability support you have been getting.

This includes:



- accommodation support – services that help you stay at home



- community support – education and support to help you be more independent



- community access – services that help you take part in your community



- respite – supports that give you and your family a short break.



If you had an ISP before, you can keep this under the CoS Programme.

There are three types of ISPs:



- service provider – where a service provider manages your money and also delivers your supports



- intermediary – where an organisation manages the money for your supports but they don't deliver your supports



- direct funding – where you manage the money for your supports.

Your ISP will let you keep buying the supports in your **Service Agreement**.

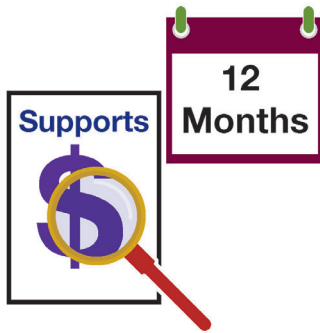


A Service Agreement is a document that says you and your service provider agree about the services you are going to receive.



You should talk to your service provider to find out what services are not funded under the CoS Programme.

What happens if your needs change?



Your service provider will review your supports every 12 months.



A review is when something is looked over to see how well it has been going.



If your needs change before your review, you should talk to your service provider.

You can ask someone to support you during these reviews including a:



- family member
- friend
- carer.

Questions or concerns



Speak to your service provider if you have any questions or concerns about them.

Or you can make a complaint with the help of your:



- carer
- support worker.



You can also speak to us if you have any questions or concerns about the CoS Programme. You or your support worker can:



- email us at
CommonwealthCoS@health.gov.au

Word list

Commonwealth Continuity of Support Programme (CoS)

This is a programme for older people who:



- are getting disability services now



- won't be a part of the **National Disability Insurance Scheme** (NDIS).



National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The NDIS is a way of providing care and support to people with disability in Australia.



Individual Support Package (ISP)

An ISP is funding to pay for the support that you need.



Service Agreement

A Service Agreement is a document that says you and your service provider agree about the services you are going to receive.



Service provider

The person or organisation that provides you with supports.

Specialist disability services

Specialist disability services are for people who need extra support to do things like:



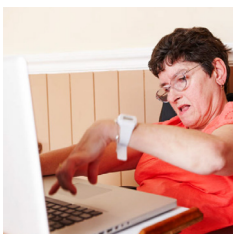
- live in the community



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- be a part of the community



- be more independent.

Contact us



CommonwealthCoS@health.gov.au



<https://agedcare.health.gov.au/programs/commonwealth-continuity-of-support-programme/implementation>



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Quote job number 2757.