



Australian Government

Department of Health

# **Transition of Hearing Services Program clients to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**

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## **Audiology Australia National Conference 2016**

Government is in caretaker mode and in accordance with the caretaker conventions this presentation will be limited to factual issues and matters of administration.



# The Hearing Services Program - overview

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The Hearing Services Program aims to

- reduce the incidence and consequences of avoidable hearing loss in the Australian community
- provide access to high quality hearing services and devices for eligible clients
- support hearing services to eligible clients and research in the hearing field.

The Program is administered by the Department of Health, through the Office of Hearing Services.



## Hearing services - NDIS transition

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- NDIS – national roll out commences 1 July 2016.
- By 2019-20 when the NDIS reaches full national roll out, eligible Hearing Service Program clients will transfer fully to this Scheme.
- There is a substantial amount of work to be done over the next 3 years to ensure that this change process is as smooth as possible for providers, practitioners and clients.



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## Transition – current arrangements

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- No change before 1 July 2019.
- As an interim arrangement all NDIS participants with hearing needs in their funded plan are being referred to the Program.
- Current CSO clients receive flexible services and supports through Australian Hearing (AH) under capped budget.
- Voucher clients receive set number of services and supports through approximately 270 providers.
- Business as usual (including NDIS only participants).



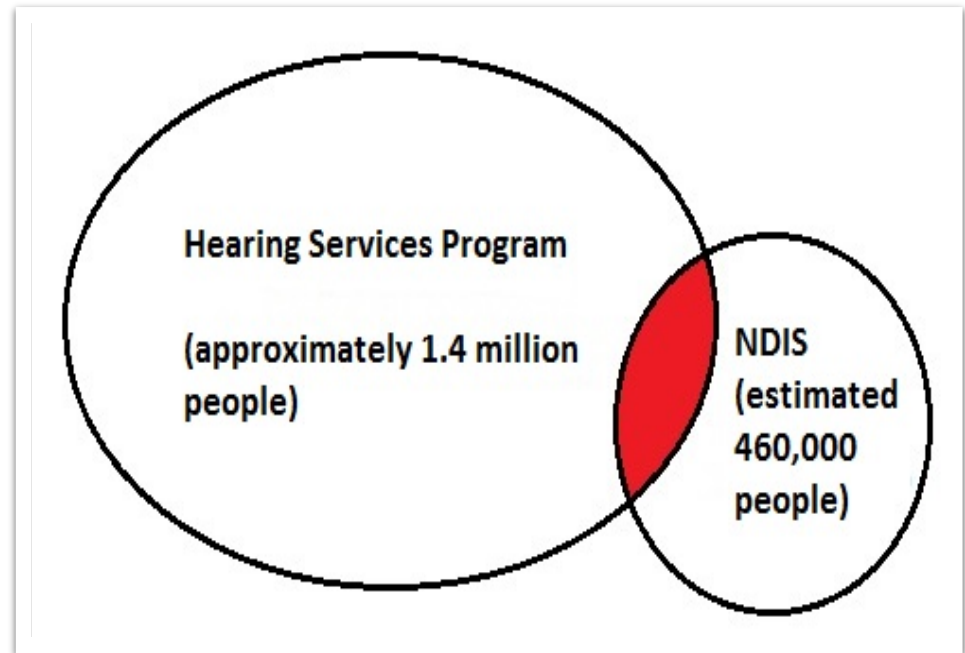
# Access to the Hearing Services Program and the NDIS

## For the Hearing Services Program

People who are more vulnerable to the impact of hearing loss – infants, children, youth participating in education, young adults entering the workforce, older people on low incomes (participation in society)

## For the NDIS

People under 65 years with a significant disability that affects their functional capacity to communicate without support or assistance and early childhood intervention.





## After transition – for clients

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- People will not be able to be both Hearing Services Program clients and NDIS participants - eligible Program clients (including younger CSO clients) will transfer to the NDIS, together with funding.
- The majority of HSP clients are over 65 years of age and will not be eligible for the NDIS
- New arrangements for the Hearing Services Program
- These clients will continue to get services through the Hearing Services Program.



## Transition plan – work packages

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1. NDIS access (eligibility)
2. Paediatric referral pathway and data collection
3. NDIS Quality, Safeguards and Client Outcomes
4. Engagement and communication
5. Pricing of services and funding transfer
6. Hearing related supports (supply of hearing devices)
7. Rural and remote access
8. Roles and boundaries
9. New arrangements for the Program, including IT and processes
10. Legislation changes
11. Governance and monitoring emerging risks



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## Contact information

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