If the residency and disability requirements are met, the first step in accessing the NDIS is developing an individualised plan. The plan is based on the individual’s goals and aspirations, both now and in the future. This may include greater independence, community involvement, employment and improved health and wellbeing.

Through the individualised plan, the NDIS assists participants to:

- Access mainstream services and supports (e.g. GP’s, health clinics)
- Access community services and supports (e.g. Men’s Shed community group)
- Maintain informal support arrangements ($ to allow continued help from family and friends e.g. carers payments)
- Receive reasonable and necessary funded supports (e.g. money for assistive technology like a new wheelchair or ramps/rails installed at home)
**Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)**

- The purpose of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), is to subsidise the costs of medicines, so those who need them only pay a **co-payment** (not the full cost)
- Currently 5000 brands are listed on the PBS
- Medications under the PBS are $6.30 for concession, and $38.80 regularly (co-payment)

**The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)**

An independent committee made up of health professionals who review/consider new medications for the PBS.

Before adding medications to the PBS, they consider:

- The medical condition the medicine is used for
- Clinical effectiveness
- Cost-effectiveness compared with other treatments

**NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS)**

*Provides service and support for people with permanent, significant disabilities, and their families and carers. To be eligible for the NDIS, a person must be aged under 65 and meet both the residency and disability requirements.*

The disability requirements are fourfold:

- you have an impairment or condition that is likely to be permanent (lifelong)
- your impairment substantially reduces your ability to participate effectively in activities, or perform tasks or actions unless you have: - assistance from other people or - you have assistive technology or equipment or - you can’t participate effectively even with assistance aide or equipment
- your impairment affects your capacity for social and economic participation • you are likely to require support under the NDIS for your lifetime.