

Transcript – Schools, SDSS program and the NDIS

It is important to understand the relationship between schools, the Non School Organisations Program and the National Disability Insurance Scheme. This includes, who supports students with disability, in which settings. Under legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act and the Disability Standards for Education, schools make reasonable adjustments supporting the inclusion, access and participation of students with disability.

The Department of Education provides funding through the Non School Organisations, or NSO Program, to approved external organisations to help schools to deliver appropriate adjustments. The National Disability Insurance Scheme, or NDIS, provides eligible Australians with disability with the supports they need to live an ordinary life. The NDIS will not replace the support schools provide to students with disability.

What is the difference between the NSO Program and the NDIS? The NSO Program and the NDIS have two distinct purposes. The NSO Program supports students with disability by providing specialist education support services and advice to school staff to support the student's access and participation at school and their education goals. School staff work closely with parents and students and, where needed, the NSO Program, to provide adjustments and support students with disability to meet their learning goals. NDIS funded services generally work with the student and their parents to provide supports in the home and community. These services contribute to the achievement of the student's personal, family and social goals. The student and their parents are at the center of collaborative discussions about support requirements. These discussions bring together the different service providers so that the strategies used to support a student are consistent across the school. School staff, and NSO-funded supports, and home and community NDIS funded supports.

So to recap, the student and their parents are central to collaboration and decision making about support requirements. Under legislation, the NDIS will not replace the support schools provide to students with disability, the NSO Program and the NDIS have two distinct purposes - the NSO Program supports schools to enhance the learning outcomes for eligible students who require significant educational adjustments. The NDIS generally responds to student support needs in the home and community, to meet individual goals.

For more information about the NSO Program visit the Queensland Government's Education website. Further information about the NDIS is available on the NDIS website.

