



Disability Support for Older Australians Program (DSOA)

This fact sheet informs current Continuity of Support (CoS) Programme clients and their families, carers and advocates about the new Disability Support for Older Australians Program (DSOA).

A review of CoS identified the need to update the program to match the National Disability Insurance Scheme's (NDIS) pricing and service delivery rules.

As a result, from 1 July 2021 the Disability Support for Older Australians Program (DSOA) will replace the CoS Programme.

What are the key changes for me?

- You will receive tailored support under an Individual Support Plan overseen by a single DSOA service coordinator.
- Funding for disability services under DSOA will be more in line with NDIS pricing and will be nationally consistent across states and territories.
- You can access more support as your needs change.

What are the benefits for me?

Under the DSOA Program you will have:

- Better and more equitable access to services.
- Quality support as your needs change so you can continue to live at home or in assisted care.
- Access to an independent assessment to make sure you receive the best mix of services for your needs.
- Greater transparency and choice when it comes to the support you receive.

What is not changing under the new DSOA Program?

- Your current living arrangements, support services, and support providers are not changing, unless you need them to.
- If you make a financial contribution to your service provider, this arrangement will continue.
- You will be able to transition to aged care services if you need to.

Am I eligible to receive services under the new DSOA Program?

If you are currently receiving support through the CoS Programme, this will continue from 1 July 2021. The DSOA Program will not accept any new clients.

Will I receive the same level of funding?

You will receive the same level of total funding or more for the disability supports that you are currently receiving.

Who will be my DSOA service coordinator?

Under the DSOA Program:

- If you currently only have one CoS service provider, they will be your DSOA service coordinator.
- We'll ask your preference, but if you have more than one CoS service provider, your primary (largest) provider will most likely become your DSOA service coordinator.

Can I change my DSOA service coordinator?

You can change your DSOA service coordinator any time by contacting your service coordinator or the Community Grants Hub on 1800 048 998.

What are the benefits of having a DSOA service coordinator?

Your DSOA service coordinator will manage all of your disability support services and help you access quality care as your needs change.

They will work with you to discuss your goals and planned outcomes and the services available to you, to meet those goals and outcomes.

They will prepare an Individual Support Plan that will outline the support you are entitled to. This includes service and funding levels, providing you with greater transparency.

Can I keep the same service providers under the DSOA Program?

Your DSOA service coordinator can make arrangements with your current service providers to make sure you receive uninterrupted disability support services from 1 July 2021.

Can I continue to employ my own workers under the DSOA Program?

No. Instead, your DSOA service coordinator will manage the employment of support workers, and can sub-contract service providers to deliver your services. Service providers are required to be NDIS registered under DSOA.

Can I access a direct funding arrangement under the DSOA Program?

Only if you have an existing direct funding arrangement in place under the CoS Programme.

What fees will I pay under the DSOA Program?

You will pay the same fees as you currently pay under CoS.

If you do not pay any fees under CoS, you will not have to pay any fees under DSOA.

Can I access additional support under DSOA if my needs change?

You can access more support as your needs change under DSOA.

For changes that need \$20,000 or more in additional funding over a 12 month period, you will have an independent assessment to make sure you receive suitable support.

Your DSOA service coordinator will assist you with this process. The Department of Health will cover the costs of the independent assessment.

Can I still access additional support under the CoS if my needs change?

Yes. Additional Support Applications (ASAs) will continue to be accepted under COS until 15 June 2021.

However, we have strongly urged CoS providers to finalise client reviews and submit any ASAs by 31 January 2021 to ensure a smooth program transition.

Can I carryover unspent CoS funds to the DSOA Program?

No, you must spend the funding within each financial year.

What happens if I currently receive supports that are not included under DSOA?

You will continue to receive these support services under the DSOA Program.

What do I need to do next?

You will be contacted and asked to confirm your DSOA service coordinator and provider arrangements before the new program commences.

Who can I contact for further information?

The Community Grants Hub is available to assist on 1800 048 998.