From Monday 12 August NDIA staff will be telephoning representatives of children who have been experiencing, or are likely to experience wait times of 50 days or longer since meeting access, to discuss the option of a six month plan.

**Why is the NDIA introducing these changes?**

* Some children are experiencing delays in accessing Early Childhood Early Intervention supports through the NDIS.
* The NDIA is committed to reducing wait times so children and families can receive early intervention supports quicker, helping them achieve the best possible outcomes.

**What are the key features of the six month NDIS Plan?**

* Six month plans are a short term strategy and **may** be offered to children and their families/carers if they are in the following circumstances:
	+ Under 7 years of age
	+ Children who have been found eligible for the NDIS, but who are currently experiencing or likely to experience wait times of greater than 50 days between meeting access to the NDIS and getting a plan.
	+ Have not already been contacted by the Early Childhood Partner for a face to face planning conversation by 31st October.
	+ Have not already had a planning conversation or an NDIS Plan before
* All children with a plan developed as part of this strategy will have a face to face planning conversation with their local Early Childhood Partner within 6 months of the first plan being approved.

**When is this process likely to start?**

* The NDIA has been working closely with all Early Childhood Partners to implement these changes since mid-August.
* This is a collaborative approach between the NDIA and the Early Childhood Partners with initial focus on areas that are experiencing the longest wait times.
* If your child is identified to receive a six month NDIS plan the NDIA will make contact with you via phone to discuss the process. When the NDIA representative contacts you they will make sure they are speaking to the person who is listed as the child’s representative – this is to protect the privacy or you and your child.

**How will I know if the NDIS Plan will meet my child’s needs?**

* Six month NDIS plans will include NDIS funding to enable access to early intervention supports as soon as possible.
* An NDIA representative will contact you to discuss your child’s needs as part of the NDIS plan development process.
* During the conversation, if it is determined that your child’s needs cannot be met by a six month NDIS plan, you will be referred to the Early Childhood Partner for a face to face planning conversation as soon as possible.
* Your local Early Childhood Partner will work closely with you throughout this process and support you to access an NDIS Plan that best reflects the individual needs of your child.

**My child recently received a NDIS plan, how does this affect us?**

* If your child currently has an NDIS plan, these changes will not impact you. Your child’s current plan should allow your child to access early intervention supports as required.
* If you require further assistance to better understand the supports in your child’s current plan please contact your local Early Childhood Partner or call the NDIS on 1800 800 110.

**We have a scheduled appointment for a planning conversation with an Early Childhood Partner, how does this affect us?**

* If you have a planning conversation scheduled with an Early Childhood Partner, these changes will not impact you.
* Your local Early Childhood Partner will work closely with you throughout this process and support you to access an NDIS Plan that best reflects the individual needs of your child.

**We have been waiting for longer than 50 days since meeting access and have not been contacted by the Early Childhood Partner or the NDIA, what are the next steps?**

* If you have been waiting for longer than 50 days since your child met access and have not been contacted by 31 October please contact the NDIA or your local Early Childhood Partner.

**We have applied for access to the NDIS and are currently awaiting a decision, how will these changes affect us?**

* A six month NDIS plan may be offered to participants who have met access requirements for the NDIS and are currently experiencing or likely to experience wait times of greater than 50 days.
* If you have already approached the NDIS through an Early Childhood Partner and are awaiting an access decision, the Early Childhood Partners will discuss your options with you to ensure your child receives timely access to Early Childhood supports while you are waiting for a decision.

**We have not applied for access to the NDIS, how will these changes affect us?**

* No, these changes will not affect you. If you believe your child has developmental delay or a disability you should contact your local Early Childhood Partner. Your local Early Childhood Partner will support your family in accessing the appropriate pathway that would best meet the needs of your child.

**What will the six month planning process look like?**

* An NDIA representative will contact you via phone to gather information gathering as part of the approach for the development of a six month plan. When the NDIA representative contacts you they will make sure they are speaking to the person who is listed as the child’s representative – this is to protect the privacy or you and your child.
* Once a six month NDIS plan is approved, your Early Childhood Partner will assist you with implementing the plan to help you access appropriate supports.
* The six month NDIS plan is likely to be replaced by a new NDIS plan within six months after being approved. A plan review meeting will be organised by your Early Childhood Partner as part of the usual plan review process.

**My child’s NDIS plan is due for a plan review, can I request a six month plan?**

* No, this strategy is a short term measure to support children and families who have been waiting for long periods allowing them access to early intervention supports as early as possible.
* A six month plan will only be offered to identified participants who have never had an NDIS plan before and are currently experiencing or likely to experience wait times of greater than 50 days.
* If your child currently has an NDIS plan, they should be able to continue to access the relevant supports through their current plan.

**I’m an Early Childhood service provider. What advice can I provide families enquiring about the six month NDIS plan?**

* An NDIA representative will make contact with identified families from mid-August 2019.
* If families would like more information about the six month plan developed under this short term strategy, they can contact the NDIS on 1800 800 110.
* The NDIA is working closely with each of its Early Childhood Partners to better understand the current wait times in each service districts, which will inform how, when and where these strategies will be implemented.
* This will be a collaborative approach between the NDIA and the Early Childhood Partners with initial focus on areas that are experiencing longer wait times.

**As an Early Childhood Service Provider, who do I contact for more information about the six month NDIS plan so I can be best informed when working with families?**

* Providers can contact the NDIA on 1800 800 110.
* Please direct families to contact the NDIA on 1800 800 110.