## **Moyne Shire Council National Disability Insurance Scheme – Approaches to the Transition**

Moyne Shire Council has a total population of 16,741 residents. Most of the growth within the shire is to the south in the coastal areas, with the entire population growing at approximately 0.5% per annum. It is projected by the State Government, that by 2021 the population will increase by 0.54% annually. Most of the population is dispersed in rural areas across the 5,478km2 of the Shire.

**The larger townships** are Port Fairy, Mortlake, Macarthur, Koroit, Caramut, Garvoc, Woolsthorpe, Hawkesdale, Kirkstall, Ellerslie, Panmure, Peterborough, Framlingham and Hexham.

**Council offices** are located in Port Fairy (administrative centre) and Mortlake. The Shire b**orders** Glenelg Shire in the west, Southern Grampians and Ararat Rural City to the north, Corangamite to the east, Warrnambool City Council in the south.

**Background**

In May 2013, the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments announced an agreement to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme from July 2016.

As part of this agreement, Governments agreed that the management of the HACC Program would be split and therefore, from1 July 2016, the funding and management of Home and Community Care (HACC) program services changed significantly. Access to these services is now based on age.

Services for younger people (people aged under 65 and Aboriginal people aged under 50) remain funded and managed by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services under the HACC Program for Younger People (HACC PYP) until the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is in full operation (2019).

As an existing provider of HACC services to both older and younger people with a disability the following arrangements have been put in place for Moyne Shire:

* Younger clients remain serviced under the state government service agreement and will gradually reduce as they transfer to the NDIS from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019.

**Key Drivers for Approach**

Moyne Shire was advised in April 2017 of the current clients who would be eligible to transfer to the NDIS service. The cost of Council providing this service through the NDIS provision would be minimal per annum if there was no increase in clients.

Council was required to make a decision if they intended to become an NDIS provider or not.

Council was presented with a paper which looked at all options available to make the decision on registering to be a provider of NDIS services.

The NDIS policy platform is based on:

* A move from a charitable to a commercial response;
* A shift in service provision from Government/Non Profit to Private Providers;
* The replacement of Government managed regional catchment with a national market;
* A move from Government mandated service standards to consumer choice;
* Creation of new functions and costs associated with marketing, individualising and coordination of services; and the restructure of the current not-for-profit provider system.

**Decision making process**

If Council was to cease providing services under the NDIS services there would be an impact to the clients who would need to transfer to alternate providers. This change would be difficult for some clients with the lack of alternate providers available to take on the tasks specifically in the rural remote areas. (See map)



The withdrawal of these specific NDIS services would result in a reduction to service hours, and impact our Community Care Workers (CCW). Some permanent part time staff would have their hours reduced as a result of the reduction in work.

The costing analysis was submitted to Council for a decision. The hourly reimbursement from NDIS per hour for services had increased from the original pricing due to the lack of providers registering.

**Implementation Approach**

The State and Commonwealth Departments have continued to run workshops and involve all Local Governments in the transition arrangements over the past 12‑18 months. Moyne Shire Council has had staff representatives attend all the South West NDIS workshops and forums which were beneficial in increased local based knowledge and the ability to seek clarification on any issues.

The Local Area Coordination (LAC) service did come with some challenges and the ability to make contact with the agency meet with long timeframes, however this has improved over time. Moyne Shire staff did however follow up with clients and suggest that the clients make contact with the LAC to have a Service Plan review if the service, firstly agreed to, did not meet their needs. A sample is *Person of a child with special needs currently has 4 hours of respite per fortnight (this is on a Sunday) and when the LAC did the services plan it wasn’t relayed to them that this was on a Sunday therefor the service plan was not a true reflection of the family’s needs. This then required a review.*

Moyne Shire Council has a dedicated officer who is responsible for the NDIS services. Due to the low number of clients this did not present as a huge task however ongoing monitoring is required.

**Review/evaluation**

If Council were to become an NDIS provider it would bear the cost of the gap between NDIS funding and the actual cost of the service as well as increased resources for the management of the services.

There would be a financial cost per year to Council but minimal. Council made a decision to become an NDIS provider to the current client list. The decision was put to Management about taking any additional clients and to manage the list.

The risk of not becoming a NDIS provider is that Moyne Shire may not have another provider interested in the provision of disability services to their current client base. There may be alternative service providers put in place who may not be qualified/experienced as Moyne Shire. The rural remote parts of the municipality have issues with access all other allied health services as well as disability services. This would put some members of our community at risk.

**Conclusion**

A decision was required as to whether Council would register as a NDIS provider. Cost considerations are important as is the continued provision of quality service to these clients who are spread across the shire.

Moyne Shire Council is supportive of Community Services and the delivery of those by qualified and experienced people who are in the community.

Council did agree to become a provider in the NDIS space and supportive of the service continuing.

Council will be provided with an update of client numbers and costs in February 2019.