

July 2017

MASS ACTION

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Directors Desk | 2 |
| MASS Education Spotlight | 4 |
| Spectacle Supply Scheme Update | 4 |
| Games success for MASS duo | 4 |
| Disability Services NDIS Update | 5 |
| MASS compliments | 6 |

MASS Assistive Technology Queensland Conference and Exhibition

From January 2018 the majority of South East Qld will be able to register for NDIS as the rollout will officially start from 1 July 2018.

MASS has recognised the significance of this change by organising an Assistive Technology Conference scheduled for November 2017.

This date has been selected to not only help provide information for those who may be eligible for NDIS but to also let those not eligible know that MASS will still be available to them.

It is a forum intended for both groups of clients and by bringing a range of suppliers and presenters together over 2-3 days it is an opportunity for everybody to see and hear about what is happening in the Assistive Technology space including seeing some of the latest technology available.

More information is available on the conference website at: <https://www.ivvy.com.au/event/ATQ17>

MASS Director John Vasil is excited at the opportunities the conference presents for clients, suppliers and prescribers.

"I urge you to pass on information regarding the conference as it will help inform all who are involved in assistive technology either as a user or prescriber/ assessor," Mr Vasil said.

"I would like to thank all the suppliers who will be involved in displaying their aids/ equipment and sharing their knowledge with all those attending."

"I'm looking forward to a milestone year as we move towards the final stages of the NDIS rollout in Qld".



MASS Action

QUEENSLAND HEALTH

From the Directors Desk

John Vasil

Director, Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme



Welcome to the July 2017 edition of MASS Action.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

Wow.....how quickly did the year go!!! Here we are already one year into the full rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

It has been an exciting time for all those in the rollout areas with the change forcing us all to quickly come up to speed as to what the NDIS means and the expectations NDIS has on potential participants as well as clinicians, Assistive Technology (AT) suppliers and other service providers.

MASS has heard from a number of our clients who have approved NDIS plans and there are some common omissions that are occurring when our clients are organising their plan. I want to make you aware of these so you can hopefully avoid omitting these from your own NDIS plan.

There are two main areas we are hearing about and they are:

- Repairs and Maintenance of your existing AT e.g. wheelchair, hoist, shower commode etc.
- You may have an application with MASS that has not yet been processed/approved.

I am no expert on the NDIS planning process but my understanding is that it needs to capture all your disability related requirements.

Every person who has AT (aids/equipment) must have a repairs and maintenance component in their plan. Repairs and maintenance is not cheap and not including it in your plan can be the difference to being able to participate in the community or being stuck at home because your hoist or wheelchair needs maintenance. Make sure you have a reasonable allowance for these repairs. You should be looking in the vicinity of \$1,000 plus and if you have complex AT you will need significantly more.

If you have an application with MASS that has not yet been approved then you **must** include this in your NDIS plan no matter what the application with MASS is for.

The reason for this is that when you have an approved NDIS plan you are no longer eligible for services through a State funded program, which is MASS in Qld.

I hope the above information helps you with your first NDIS plan.

In order to further help you with your first NDIS plan MASS is sending letters out to all clients approximately three months prior to the rollout of NDIS. Along with the advice in the letter we also provide an attachment that shows all the supports you have received from MASS. You can use this list to make sure all of these supports are included in your NDIS plan along with your

other requirements.

Productivity Commission

I am sure most of you are aware that the Productivity Commission was commissioned to do a study to review the costs of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

There were a variety of issues examined by the study including:

- the sustainability of scheme costs;
- cost pressures (including wage pressures);
- whether efficiencies have been achieved within the scheme;
- whether there has been any impact on mainstream services; and
- examine the most appropriate levers to manage any potential cost overruns.

The position paper was released on 14 June 2017 and you can access a copy via the below link:

<http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/ndis-costs/position>

The Productivity Commission invited for written submission or comment to help inform the final study report. We are currently awaiting the final report.

[From the Directors Desk continues on the next page]

From the Directors Desk

MASS online (web based) applications

At long last the MASS online applications development has started and we hope to include a number of our prescribers, both internal and external to Qld Health, to be involved in the testing process before we "go live". We recognise the importance of this medium and the flexibility/efficiency it will provide to our clients and the clinicians assisting them through the application and equipment trial process. We hope to have this available to all prior to Christmas 2017.

The beauty of our web based applications is that you can access via a smartphone, iPad, Tablet, Laptop or computer. The web based application is a smart form that determines which is the next question that needs to be answered based on how you answered the last question. It removes the need to scroll up and down the form looking for the next question. This feature alone should reduce the time it takes to complete an application. There will be a lot of benefits that the new process will provide and we will provide more information as we complete the development process.

I would encourage you to regularly visit the MASS website as there is a lot of change currently, whether it's NDIS, Productivity Commission or MASS web based forms, we will try to keep you updated: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/mass>

Acknowledgement to an AT Advocate

I would like to change tact from my usual updates and acknowledge a strong advocate for assistive technology in Australia as well as a vocal advocate for people with disability who is scaling down his workloads as he moves towards retirement. Chris Sparks' more recent role was as the Executive Officer of ATSA (Assistive Technology Suppliers Australasia) where he is still involved in a part time capacity. Chris has been passionate about assistive technology most of his life as he is a user and he has made a difference not only through his strong advocacy for people reliant on assistive technology but also for the Australian suppliers who have a united voice through ATSA. I wish Chris well as he moves towards retirement.

It is good to have Chris still involved, even though in a part time capacity, and I know that ATSA is in good hands with his successor David Sinclair, who will continue to build on the strengths of ATSA and add his own touch to its development.

MASS Clients not eligible for NDIS

I would like to restate, for the benefit of our current and future clients, that if you are not eligible for NDIS you will continue to be eligible for MASS and we look forward to continuing our ongoing relationship.

You might be interested to know that the fastest growing demographic in Qld is people over the age of 65 partially due to the "baby boomers" heading into retirement but mainly due to an ageing population. Some quick statistics for you summarised from the Australian Bureau of Statistics as it relates to Qld:

- The baby boomer group, aged 41–60 years in 2006, currently (2017) aged 52-71 and will be aged 56–75 in 2021
- The number of baby boomers in Queensland increase to 1.133 million by 2021
- Baby boomers will **all** be in the oldest age group by 2031
- In 2006, people aged 65 and older represented 12% of the population
- By 2031, approximately one in every five Queenslanders (20%) will be aged 65 years or older

The reference to 20% of Qld's population being over the age of 65 put in actual headcount means that today's 686,000 people over the age of 65 will almost double by 2031 to approx. 1.3 million Queenslanders over the age of 65.

These are significant numbers and will have an effect on all of us and our businesses/services.

Thank you for the great work you all do. I'll leave you with a quoteuntil next time.

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts"

Winston Churchill

MASS Education Spotlight

The MASS Education Calendar is packed full of exciting and informative webinars over the next few months:

27 July: Three manual wheelchairs with power assist - A review of 3 manual wheelchair applications, looking at the spectrum of manual wheelchair user needs

23 August: Use of CAEATI funding to support participation in recreational activities - An overview of items funded to support applicants to participate in recreational and leisure activities of their choice.

14 September: Fit for Purpose, Safe, Reliable – Part A Confidence in a product at point of sale - The first in a series of two webinars looking at what gives confidence in wheelchairs and other assistive technology

25 October: Fit for Purpose, Safe, Reliable – Part B Confidence in a product at time of delivery and well after - The second in the series looks at * Post-delivery follow up, maintenance and repairs * Modifications, what can and cannot be modified, by whom and how to request mods

For more information on MASS education, visit the website at:

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/mass/education/default.asp>

Spectacle Supply Scheme & Specialised Services Update

The Spectacle Supply Scheme has recently had a significant change to its guidelines, effective from 1 July 2017.

From that date, access to the scheme will only be available once every two years. Access to the scheme inside the two year eligibility period will be removed, regardless of any clinical change in eyesight. This change is a consequence of the significantly increased demand from the over 65 years group of clients, corresponding to the Federal Government's change to Medicare eye testing intervals, and in preference to a waitlist.

Access to the scheme inside the two year period for instances of loss/breakage will remain as they currently are.



Games success again for Dynamic Duo

Hazel Waters and Tracey Pollock participated in the singles ten pin bowling tournament of the Queensland Corporate Games held on Sunday 21 May 2017 at Mt Gravatt Lanes.

Hazel placed first winning the GOLD medal, whilst Tracey placed third winning the BRONZE medal - they played under the banner of Queensland Health.

Hazel and Tracey were also presented with the Sports Award for Ten Pin Bowling at the Corporate Games Awards Night.



Continence Aids Services Update

How do I re-order continence aids from MASS?

One month before your next supply is due, call MASS on 3136 3665. Please have your approval letter as reference when you call, as it will assist with your re-order.

You will need to provide the client's full name, date of birth, address, phone number, whether the client is receiving a home care package, product/s name and code.

MASS Application Forms

Mandatory Identifying Information must be completed on each page of a MASS application form. Applicant identifiers need to be present to enable the proper identification checks to be conducted.

(Affix identification label here if available)

Family name:

Given name(s):

Date of birth:

Sex: M F I

Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services NDIS Update

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is rolling out across Queensland from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019.

It is the new way of providing support for people with disability and is how Queenslanders with disability will receive their disability supports, including aids, equipment and assistive technologies, once the NDIS is rolled out in their location.

This means that in areas which are transitioning to the NDIS, CAEATI will no longer be available, rather people will apply for these types of supports from the NDIS.

For details about the NDIS rollout schedule go to www.communities.qld.gov.au/ndis. The following table shows the dates when CAEATI applications will no longer be accepted in each location.

| NDIS TRANSITION LOCATIONS | FINAL DATES FOR RECEIPT OF CAEATI AND VOSS APPLICATIONS |
|--|---|
| Townsville, Hinchinbrook, Burdekin, west to Mount Isa, and up to the gulf | Closed |
| Mackay, Isaac and Whitsundays | Closed |
| Toowoomba and west to the borders | Closed |
| Ipswich, Lockyer, Scenic Rim and Somerset | Closed |
| Bundaberg | Closed |
| Rockhampton, Gladstone and west to the borders | 30 September 2017 |
| Logan and Redlands | 31 March 2018 |
| Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Tablelands, Croydon, Etheridge, Cape York and Torres Strait | 31 March 2018 |
| Brisbane North and Brisbane South | 31 March 2018 |
| Fraser Coast, North Burnett, South Burnett and Cherbourg | 31 March 2018 |
| Gold Coast and Hinterland | 31 March 2018 |
| Strathpine, Caboolture, Sunshine Coast, Noosa and Gympie | 30 September 2018 |



Note: People requiring equipment in the above areas after the listed dates, or if applications have closed, should contact the NDIS <https://www.ndis.gov.au>



1800 800 110



Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme

41 Southgate Avenue
Cannon Hill QLD 4170
PO Box 281 Cannon Hill QLD

Phone: 07 3136 3636 or 1300 443 570

Email: mass184@health.qld.gov.au

Fax

Equipment Services: 07 3136 3525

Continence Aids Services: 1300 446 172

Oxygen Services: 07 3136 3500

Spectacle Supply Scheme & Specialised Services: 1300 362 276

Qld Artificial Limb Service: 07 3136 3650



Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) provides access to subsidy funding for the provision of MASS endorsed aids and equipment to eligible Queensland residents with permanent and stabilized conditions or disabilities. The range of MASS aids and equipment is selected to assist people to live at home and avoid premature or inappropriate residential care or hospitalization.

Aids and equipment are subsidy funded either on a permanent loan basis, private ownership or through the purchase of consumables. MASS provides subsidy funding assistance towards:

- communication aids
- mobility aids
- daily living aids
- Cystic Fibrosis Program
- medical grade footwear
- spectacles
- oxygen
- continence aids
- orthoses
- vehicle purchase and modifications
- artificial limbs

We're on the Web

Prescriber Website

www.health.qld.gov.au/mass

Consumer Website

www.qld.gov.au/health/support/equipment/index.html

Re your letter of 13/06/17. Please be advised that I am in receipt of your letter regarding items on loan to me and gratefully accept option one with gratitude.

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation of your past support in making your equipment available to be with ongoing support.

I also wish to tender my sincere thanks to your wonderful staff who have always treated me with respect, kindness and consideration.



Thought I'd drop a line to let you know how grateful we are to receive continence aids for

****. Thank you and a wonderful day to you and your team.

Just had a nice conversation with the mother of ****. According to her mother, she is loving her new seating, so comfortable, so glad to no longer be fighting with the Kimba. Very grateful to the team at MASS for making this a reality.



I thought you and your team might like to see one very delighted ****, who took receipt of her new power chair at the end of February.

**** loves her new chair, and her family, her teachers and friends are happy to see her being in charge of her own mobility. Not to mention me.

Many thanks to you all for making this happen.

