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Minister Robert announces new COVID-19 measures for participants and providers

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**21/03/2020**

Minister Stuart Robert has announced a package of COVID-19 measures for NDIS providers and participants. NDS welcomes these initiatives. They will inject much needed cash into the provider sector as it prepares for and responds to the challenges that COVID-19 will have on people with disability, their families and carers, and on providers and their workforces.

The new measures, to support both providers and participants, include:

## For providers

- One-month advance payment to registered providers to give them immediate cash flow relief (based on a monthly average of supports delivered in the previous 3 month period)
- A 10% 'COVID-19 loading' for up to 6 months on price limits for:
  - Assistance with daily life (excluding Supported Independent Living)
  - Assistance with Social and Community Participation
  - Improved daily living
- Allowing providers to charge 100% for cancellations
- Broadening the definition of a 'Short Notice Cancellation' (detail is yet to be

provided)

### **For participants**

- Plans to be extended by up to 24 months, to ensure continuity of support and to direct planning resources to urgently required plan reviews
- Planning to be done via telephone meetings where possible
- More flexibility in the use of capacity building funds (shifting it to core where necessary)
- An 'action plan' to ensure NDIS participants and families continue to receive essential disability supports they need

NDS will be working with providers to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 virus on both the people they support and their ability to deliver the supports required.

The Minister has indicated the Government will also be monitoring the impact of COVID-19 and 'can and will make further changes as required'.

NDS will be in contact with you again as soon as information about how these initiatives will be implemented is available.

### **Contact information**

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