

CHANGING TRACKS

DISABILITY SERVICES



PARTICIPANT GUIDEBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

1. WELCOME TO CHANGING TRACKS

Changing Tracks Disability Support Service extends a warm welcome to you and to your network of family, friends and carers. We are passionate about enabling all people to access and enjoy their local community and to explore new horizons.

The staff at Changing Tracks have many years of experience working with people with disabilities in the Barwon region. We feel that the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has opened up a range of new and exciting opportunities for people. Tailored support services can now meet the preferences and needs of every individual.

This Participant Guidebook contains important information about Changing Tracks. We hope it will give you the information you need to understand our service and to get the most out of your time with us.

If you have any questions, this Participant Guidebook has information to help you understand what to do or who to contact.

If you do not find the answers here, you are welcome to contact Changing Tracks anytime

by Phone Mat 0447 325 196 or Tony 0447 325 197

Email info@changingtracks.com.au

Website www.changingtracks.com.au

2. WHAT DOES CHANGING TRACKS DO?

Changing Tracks is a registered and accredited NDIS Provider.

We provide group based Support Services to People with disabilities, aged 15 years and over. Groups include up to four people supported by one staff member.

We are a Community-Based organisation. This means the services we provide take place in the community, either in your local area or further away. Changing Tracks actively promotes and encourages participants to move freely around their environments and communities including accessing public transport.

Changing Tracks has policies that are written to ensure that Changing Tracks follows all relevant laws. Our procedures explain how we do things within the organisation.

E.g. Medication Administration Policy, Client Privacy Procedure

3. TYPES OF SUPPORT PROVIDED

Changing Tracks offers a range of Support Services. Each program is tailored to meet your personal needs and goals. We are always keen to hear suggestions of new programs and activities you are interested in trying.

Our Support Services include:

REGULAR WEEKDAY PROGRAMS

- Adventure Recreation
 - Surfing, Bike Riding, Bush Walking, Canoeing, etc.
- Social Recreation
 - Gardening, Environmental Programs, Social Groups etc.
- Health & Wellbeing
 - Walking, Swimming, Gym, Sports, Nutrition etc.
- Life Skills
 - Cooking, Shopping, Money Handling, Computers, Home Duties, Travel Training, etc.

WEEKEND EVENTS – DAYTIME &/OR EVENINGS

- Social Groups
- Sports Events
- Festivals
- Cultural Events
- Trips outside the Barwon region
- Adventure Recreation
- Leisure Recreation

WEEKENDS AWAY / HOLIDAYS / RESPITE

- Changing Tracks coordinates Weekends Away and Mid-Week Holidays for small groups. Destinations may be within Victoria or interstate.
- Our Weekends Away also offer interesting and creative Respite opportunities for the Participant, which provides a break for families and carers.

GETTING INVOLVED

4. HOW TO SIGN UP WITH CHANGING TRACKS

Getting started with Changing Tracks is easy.

The first step is to complete an Intake Form and get it to us.

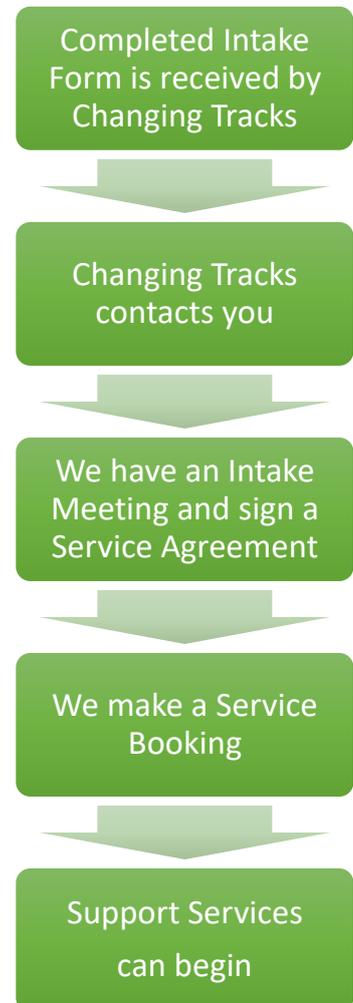
You can do this in the way that suits you best:

- Via our website – complete and submit the online Intake Form or print and send a PDF version to Changing Tracks, PO Box 823, Ocean Grove, 3226 www.changingtracks.com.au
- Call us on **0447 325 196**

A Changing Tracks representative will contact you when your Intake Form has been received. We can talk about your NDIS plan, your goals and your needs, and how Changing Tracks might support you.

At the same time we can arrange an Intake Meeting where we get together and gather more information about you and organise a Service Agreement.

The signed Service Agreement means that a Service Booking can be made, and we can begin working with you.



5. CAN SOMEONE ELSE DO THE TALKING?

Yes. With your consent, Changing Tracks is happy to speak to another person who can act on your behalf. This person is called your Chosen Representative. Your Chosen Representative may be someone such as a family member, friend or advocate.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

6. REGULAR WEEKDAY PROGRAMS & WEEKEND EVENTS

A **Program Outline** will be provided to you for each Program or Weekend Event you sign up to. This will include information about:

- The type of activities involved
- Meeting place and time
- Specific clothing or footwear requirements
- What food or drinks to bring
- Whether extra money is required

Each participant will be given a **Program Plan & Itinerary**. This lists the Programs and Events you'll be doing each week and any specific requirements for each session.

7. WEEKENDS AWAY / HOLIDAYS / RESPITE

Before weekends away, holidays or respite, you will receive an **Information Pack**. This will include:

- An itinerary
- A Checklist of things to bring
- An Assistance with Medication Consent Form
- Drop off and Pick up places and times
- Contact details for staff

8. WHAT YOU WON'T NEED

For safety and security reasons, please avoid bringing the following items to programs or holidays:

- Expensive or delicate IT equipment
- Excess cash
- Medication that hasn't been prescribed
- Too much luggage! (Try to stick to the Checklist we provide)

SERVICE COSTS and BOOKINGS

9. TURNING YOUR PLAN INTO SERVICES

Here's how it works:

- Your NDIS Plan has a number of Support Categories
- Each Support Category has a funding Value, which is used to make Service Bookings
- You choose what you'd like to do with Changing Tracks, which Support Category you will access, and to what Value.
- Then a Service Agreement is signed by you and a member of the Changing Tracks team, and either party can make one or more Service Bookings
- Once a Service Booking is made, Changing Tracks can provide Support Services to you
- You can view your Service Booking at any time on the MyPlace Participant Portal www.ndis.gov.au On request, Changing Tracks can print or email you a copy of the Service Booking

10. SUPPORT COSTS

Support Costs are the costs of the service that is claimed from your NDIS plan. Please note, these costs are set by the NDIS and have been taken from the NDIS Price Guide which is subject to change without notice. The total cost of a Mid Week Holiday is not listed, as it will vary depending on the length and dates of the holiday. The information for a Weekend Away gives some indication of the expected cost.

REGULAR WEEKDAY PROGRAMS OR WEEKEND ACTIVITIES		
Support Category	Program	Hourly Rate per Person
0004 or 0001 Group based community, social and recreational activities - weekdays	Group based programs weekday (until 8pm)	\$21.39
	Group based programs weekday evening (8pm onwards)	\$23.46
	Group based programs Saturdays	\$29.68
	Group based programs Sundays	\$37.98
Transport – NDIS funded or Self-Funded		\$0.78 per KM
WEEKENDS AWAY / HOLIDAYS / RESPITE (BASED ON FRIDAY 3PM – SUNDAY 4PM)		
Support Category	Program	Total Cost
0004, 0001 or 0009	Group based weekends away	\$1324.04

11. MAKING PAYMENTS

Generally, once a Service Booking has been made and a support service provided to you, Changing Tracks will send an invoice for the costs directly to the NDIS.

However, if you Self-Manage your plan or have a registered Fund Manager in place, invoices will be sent directly to you or your Fund Manager. Your Service Agreement allows you to select your invoice management details. If these arrangements change, please tell Changing Tracks as soon as possible.

12. COSTS NOT COVERED BY NDIS

Your NDIS funding covers your Support Costs. Support Costs refer to the cost of helping you to access an activity or program. Usually, this means the cost of employing staff. The Support Costs for services Changing Tracks provide are listed in the table on the previous page.

At times, there may be additional **Out of Pocket Expenses** to you, such as:

- Public Transport fares -we can help you organise a myki Card if necessary
- Lunch during the week - we recommend you bring lunch from home
- Spending money for Weekends Away or Holidays

At times Changing Tracks may need to invoice you for **Activity Costs**. Activity Costs are expenses that cannot be covered by your NDIS funding and may include:

- Weekday Programs (groceries for cooking, gym & swim admission, equipment costs, transport costs etc.)
- On Holidays (transport, accommodation, meals etc.)
- On Weekend Events (admission to the event, transport etc.)

Please note: Changing Tracks can assist with budgeting or money handling skills for activities but cannot take responsibility for client finances. Changing Tracks actively promotes independent money handling and payments.

13. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Changing Tracks may be able to assist with some travel arrangements either by using your NDIS funding or as an out of pocket expense. Contact us for more details.

14. CHANGING YOUR MIND

You can change your mind at any time. Cancel or alter your Service Booking by contacting Changing Tracks. Please note this may take up to 28 days to process.

MEDICATION

15. MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

If required, Changing Tracks can assist with the administration of your medication or remind you to take your medication during programs. In order for us to do this, the following guidelines must be met.

ASSISTANCE WITH MEDICATION

If you need Changing Tracks staff to **administer or to remind you to take** your medication during any Changing Tracks program, a Medication Assistance & Consent Form must be completed (this includes prescription & over the counter pain drugs such as paracetamol or ibuprofen). You will be provided with this form during your Intake Meeting. It will be stored in your file.

An updated Medication Assistance & Consent Form is required

- Every time your medication is changed
- Every time you attend a Weekend Away, Holiday or Respite

A Medication Assistance & Consent Form will be sent to you for completion prior to each Weekend Away, Holiday or Respite.

MEDICATION REQUIREMENTS

- All **tablet** medication must be packaged in a Webster Pack (see picture 1). This includes prescription & over the counter pain drugs such as paracetamol or ibuprofen. This is usually a free service from chemists, intended to help people manage their daily medication. All Webster Packs must be clearly labelled with your name, directions for administration and dosage amount on the packaging.
- All **liquid** medication must be in the original bottle provided by your chemist (see picture 2). All Liquid Medication must be clearly labelled with your name, directions for administration and dosage amounts on the bottle.

1. Webster Pack



2. Liquid Medication



Under no circumstances will Changing Tracks administer or remind you to take any medication not presented as above.

CANCELLATIONS

16. CANCELLATION POLICY & PROCEDURE

We understand that there will be times that you cannot make it to your sessions, however, it's important that you notify Changing Tracks as soon as possible.

There may also be times when Changing Tracks needs to make changes to your session, such as staff unavailability. If this happens, Changing Tracks will contact you and offer alternative options. You can choose whether you accept these changes, or if you want to cancel the session.

To cancel a session please call or text – Mat 0447 325 196 or Tony 0447 325 197

CANCEL A REGULAR WEEKDAY SESSION

- **Please cancel your session by 3pm on the Day Before.**
- If you cancel your session **before 3pm** on the day before, you **will not be charged**.
- If you cancel your session **after 3pm** on the day before **or do not show up** for a scheduled session, Changing Tracks will charge you from your NDIS funding for the support costs.
- Please note: We are required to notify the NDIS if you exceed 8 late cancellations in a 12-month period. This could lead to a disruption in your service with Changing Tracks.

CANCEL A WEEKEND EVENT, HOLIDAY or RESPITE

- **We require 3 Days' Notice to cancel these sessions.**
- If you cancel **more than 3 days before** it was due to start, you will not be charged.
- If you cancel **less than 3 full days before** it was due to start, Changing Tracks will charge you from your NDIS funding for the support costs.
- E.g. If a camp begins at 3pm Friday 28th April, you would need to notify Changing Tracks before 3pm Tuesday 25th April to avoid being charged.

REFUNDS (WEEKEND EVENTS OR HOLIDAY ACTIVITY COSTS ONLY)

A refund for an Activity Cost will be paid to you if:

- We can fill your place OR
- A refund is available for the item purchased (e.g. Admission Fee, Train Fare)

Changing Tracks cannot provide refunds for pre-purchased activity costs.

RIGHTS, PRIVACY and RESPONSIBILITIES

17. PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS

Changing Tracks will always work in a way that protects your rights as an individual, not just because it's the right thing to do, but also because your rights are protected by the law. Changing Tracks has undertaken an intensive accreditation process to ensure that we comply with mandatory regulations set out by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)

HUMAN SERVICE STANDARDS

Empowerment - People's rights are promoted & upheld

Access & Engagement - People's right to access transparent, equitable & integrated services is promoted and upheld.

Wellbeing - People's right to wellbeing and safety is promoted and upheld

Participation - People's right to choice, decision making and to actively participate as a valued member of their chosen community is promoted and upheld.

For more information on the Human Service Standards you can call the DHHS on 1300 650 172 or visit their website www.dhhs.vic.gov.au

VICTORIA'S CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Charter is a law in Victoria. Organisations who give public services to the community must follow the Charter. If you use their services you can say if you think they are not giving you your rights. Everyone's rights are equal. You should not be treated unfairly because of things like race, religion, age or disability. These are the rights that the law says everyone should have. They are your rights.

1. Equality before the law
2. The right to life
3. No torture or degrading treatment
4. No forced labour or slavery
5. Freedom of movement
6. The right to privacy
7. The right to think or believe what you like
8. The right to freedom of expression
9. The right to peaceful assembly
10. The right to protection of families and children
11. The right to take part in public life
12. Cultural rights
13. Property rights
14. The right to freedom and security
15. The right to humane treatment when deprived of liberty
16. The rights of children in the criminal process
17. The right to a fair hearing
18. Rights in criminal proceedings
19. Right not to be tried or punished more than once
20. Retrospective criminal laws

For more information on the Charter of Rights & Responsibilities you can call the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission – 1300 292 153 or visit their website www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au

18. PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY

Changing Tracks treats your privacy very seriously, not just because it's the right thing to do, but also because the law protects your privacy. Legislation is in place to protect you and Changing Tracks must abide by it. (*Disability Services Act 2006, Information Privacy Act 2000, National Disability Insurance Act 2013*)

WHY AND HOW WE KEEP PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Your personal information collected by Changing Tracks is confidential, stored securely, and only available to Changing Tracks staff for the purpose of your supports.
- Your personal information will not be shared with anyone else without your consent.
- You can arrange to see a copy of your Changing Tracks file at any time by speaking to your staff member or contacting Changing Tracks by phone or email to make arrangements.

SHARING YOUR INFORMATION WITH OTHERS

- Changing Tracks may be required by law to provide relevant information about you to the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).
- There may be times when it is beneficial for Changing Tracks to speak to other people or agencies relevant to you. This will only happen if you provide consent. If you change your mind at any time you can withdraw your consent by speaking with your staff or contacting Changing Tracks by phone or email.

19. CHANGING TRACKS' RESPONSIBILITIES

We aim to provide an engaging, personalised Support Service to all participants. The following expectations apply to all Changing Tracks staff.

At all times, it is our responsibility to:

- Treat you and anyone that represents you with respect and dignity.
- Make every effort to ensure your safety and wellbeing.
- Work collaboratively with anyone you wish to act on your behalf.
- Talk to you before any changes are made to your Support Services.
- Talk with you about the programs you access and your progress.
- Regularly review your Support Services with you.
- Keep your confidential information private in accordance with the law (*Disability Services Act 2006, Information Privacy Act 2000, National Disability Insurance Act 2013*)
- Respond to your complaints or feedback in a timely manner.
- Respect your decision to withdraw consents at any time.

20. YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

We want all Changing Tracks participants and staff to enjoy a safe, positive and rewarding experience. We will support you to uphold your responsibilities. However, if problems arise, Changing Tracks will discuss these with you before making a decision about your suitability for particular programs.

At all times, it is your responsibility to:

- Treat Changing Tracks staff and other participants with respect.
- Follow the Changing Tracks cancellation policy & procedure as described in this document.
- Work towards your own personal goals, and contribute to planning for the groups you are involved in at Changing Tracks.
- Notify Changing Tracks of any changes to your NDIS funding that may affect our ability to provide services to you.
- When you are unwell, do not attend Changing Tracks program until you are fit to do so or cleared by a doctor.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

21. CHANGES TO PERSONAL DETAILS

It's really important that we have up to date information about you.

If your personal details change (e.g. address, phone numbers, emergency contacts, your medical needs), please notify Changing Tracks as soon as possible. You can call 0447 325 196, email info@changingtracks.com.au or just let a staff member know.

22. CHANGES TO YOUR FUNDING

Sometimes your NDIS plan can change unexpectedly. Your NDIS review may be brought forward or extended, or your funding amounts may be altered. Please notify Changing Tracks if there are any changes to the dates of your NDIS review, or if the funding on your new plan has been changed. This will allow Changing Tracks to make necessary changes to our Support Service to adapt to your needs and funding.

23. UPCOMING EVENTS

Once you have registered with Changing Tracks, we'll let you know about upcoming events and programs. Our staff will provide information to you during program times.

The Changing Tracks Website will also list new and upcoming programs and support services.

24. BOOKING IN TO EVENTS OR PROGRAMS

Once you have registered with Changing Tracks, you can book into any of our events by Phone **Mat 0447 325 196** or **Tony 0447 325 197**
Email info@changingtracks.com.au OR
Speaking to a Changing Tracks staff member during a program.

New participants are always welcome at Changing Tracks. Please see Page 5 of this Guidebook for more information about Getting Involved with our service.

25. IS CHANGING TRACKS THE RIGHT SERVICE TO CHOOSE?

Changing Tracks may not always be the most suitable Support Service for you.

Changing Tracks is a Community-Based provider, meaning all the supports we provide take place in the community. We may not have the facilities or capacity to meet everyone's needs. At times, we may have limited capacity to provide more intensive programs, such as Individualised Support or Behaviour Management. Sometimes Personal Care needs may mean that Changing Tracks is unable to provide services. If this is the case, we will talk with you about this and assist with a referral to another agency if necessary.

26. ENDING SERVICES WITH CHANGING TRACKS

You have choice and control over the services you receive through Changing Tracks

You can end your Service Agreement with Changing Tracks at any time for any reason. If you wish to do this, please speak to Mat or Tony in person or over the phone, or notify them by email info@changingtracks.com.au

Changing Tracks also reserves the right to end your Service Agreement if necessary. Reasons may include:

- Limited engagement from you such as - Not turning up for sessions
 - Ongoing late cancellations
 - Regularly leaving your sessions early
 - Unwillingness to work towards your agreed goals
 - Unwillingness to review your program
- Aggressive or inappropriate behaviour
- A change in your medical or personal care needs, which means Changing Tracks is no longer qualified or able to support you

If we need to cancel your service, Changing Tracks staff will meet and discuss the issues with you prior to taking any further action.

FEEDBACK

27. HOW ARE WE DOING?

Changing Tracks takes your feedback very seriously and is committed to resolving issues fairly and as quickly as possible.

Changing Tracks values feedback of any sort, whether it is a complaint, a compliment or a suggestion. We encourage participants and their chosen representatives to provide feedback freely. This helps us to understand what is working well, what is not working well, and what people need and want from our service.

Changing Tracks is required to report all complaints and compliments to the Disability Services Commissioner every 3 months. No names or personal information are disclosed.

SURVEYS & OTHER FEEDBACK REQUESTS

At various times through the year, you or your chosen representative will be invited to contribute to surveys, evaluations and other feedback opportunities. We appreciate your assistance and honesty with this important process.

All feedback we receive will remain confidential. Statistics will be shared with all people we support, but no names or personal details will be published.

28. COMPLAINTS & FEEDBACK PROCEDURE

Complaints & Feedback can be provided by yourself or by your chosen representative. It's your choice.

There are 4 easy ways that you can make a complaint or leave any feedback for Changing Tracks.

1. Phone call – Mat 0447 325 196 or Tony 0447 325 197
2. Email – info@changingtracks.com.au
3. Website – go to the Contact Us page and follow the prompts
4. In person – speak to any Changing Tracks staff member at any time

If you prefer not to speak to Changing Tracks you can make a complaint directly to the Disability Services Commissioner. You can also contact the Disability Services Commissioner if you are unsatisfied with Changing Track's resolution of your complaint. 1800 677 342, www.odsc.vic.gov.au or complaints@odsc.vic.gov.au.

CONTACT US

29. OUR DETAILS

If you would like more information about anything you've just read, or would like to speak to someone at Changing Tracks, please feel welcome to contact us.

Email info@changingtracks.com.au

Mat Kelly 0447 325 196

Tony Smales 0447 325 197

Website www.changingtracks.com.au

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