



NDIS Coordination

Andrew Bartha | Galambila AHS Coffs Harbour | NDIS

Introduction

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing support for Australians with a disability, their families and carers.

The NDIS will provide around 460,000 Australians under the age of 65 who have a permanent and significant disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to live an ordinary life.

As an insurance scheme, the NDIS takes a lifetime approach, investing in people with a disability early to improve their outcomes later in life. Galambila aims to provide a culturally appropriate service to the local Aboriginal community.

Partners

Galambila NDIS
Windaan NDIS
General Practitioners and
Service Partners

Objectives

The NDIS supports people with a disability to build skills and capability so they can participate in the community and employment. It's important to our community as it empowers our mob to be active and enjoy a life that they deserve to live.

Families are able to support each other through tough times and not be limited on activities they can be involved with due to a family members having a disability.

Methods

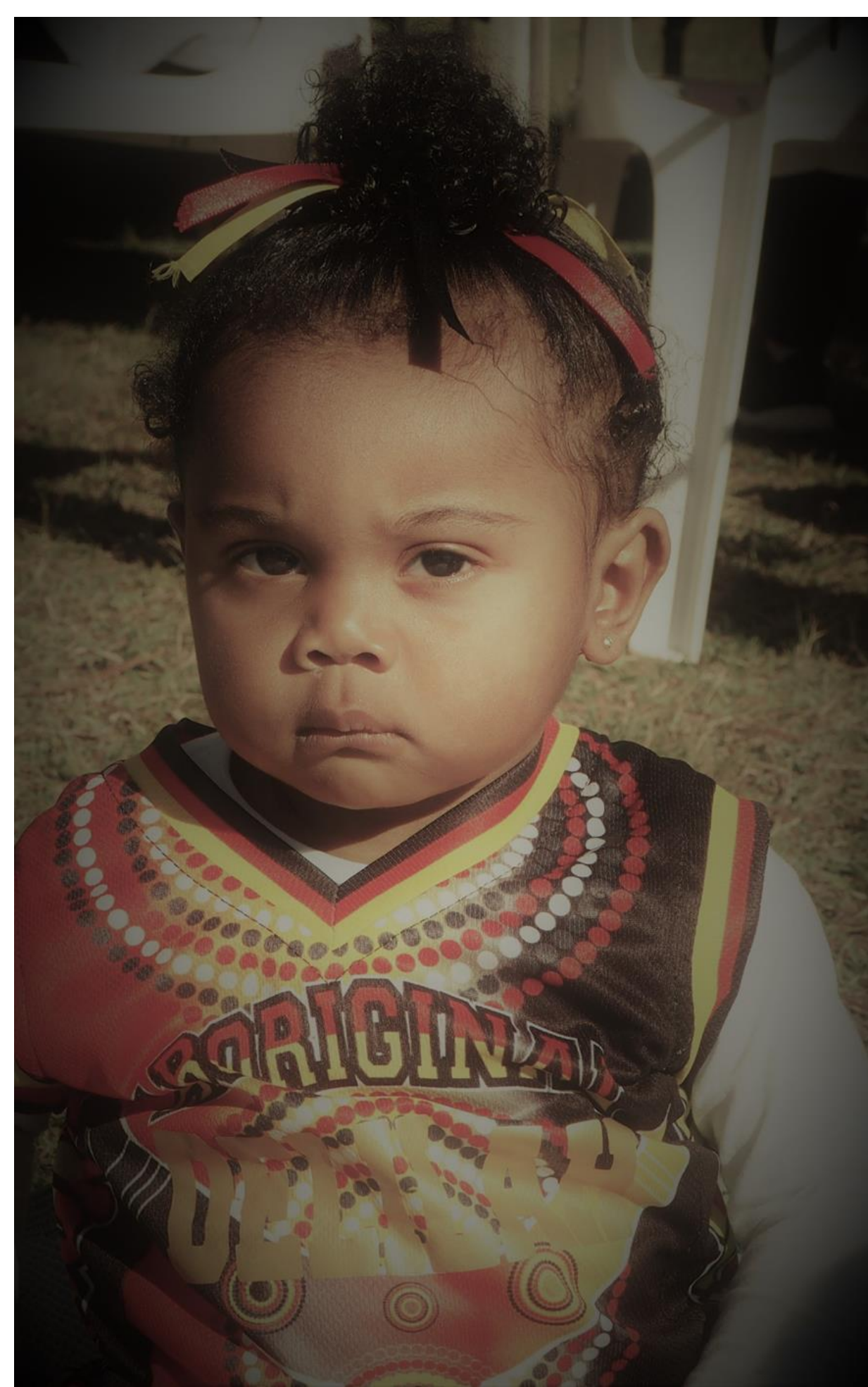
Galambila AHS has recently entered the NDIS field. In partnership with Windaan, our GP's and local service providers we are combining to provide a complete package for NDIS participants.

These services include speech therapy, occupational therapy, behavioural management, child psychology, ECI for children, respite care, community involvement and also cultural development.

Successful outcomes can be measured over a set timeframe and plans are reviewed every 12 months to ensure they are suitable and meeting the participants goals and needs.



Children participating in community event in Coffs Harbour.



Lessons Learned

The biggest challenge for our organisation was engagement of our mob with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) for package reviews and general use of services within the package. Galambila and Windaan met with the NDIA Managers to discuss these issues and the need for more cultural awareness.

This meeting was extremely successful and has resulted in current and new packages being reviewed and appropriate funding allocated for support coordination to ensure mob are comfortable and understand what their packages allow. This creates greater choices for our mob to improve all stages of life.

The NDIA now also attend Galambila for training and also meetings with families which provides a more comfortable and relaxed environment for families to express their needs and ensure the NDIA understands all the families concerns and requirements.

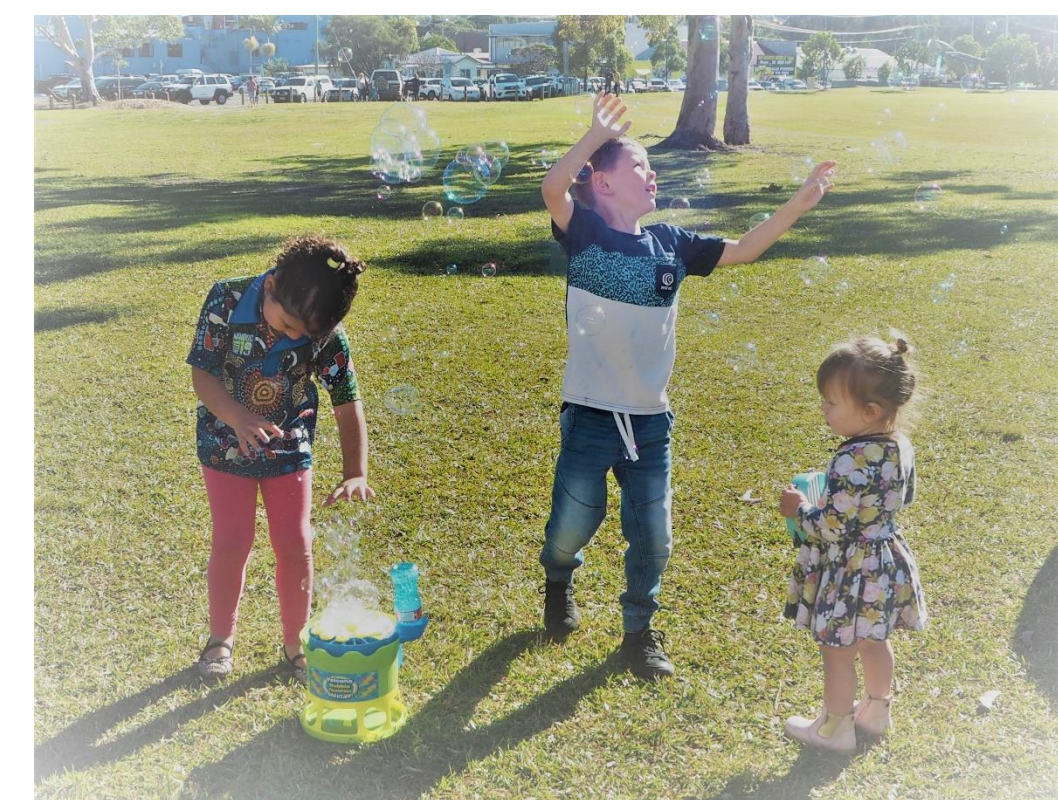
So far this partnership with the NDIA has provided some great results and we believe will be a blueprint for success in all Indigenous Communities.

Galambila has only been up and running in the NDIS field for a short time, however, there has been an 8.6% increase in applications for the NDIS. Package amounts have been increased by up to three times the original amount due to the NDIA now having a better understanding of our mobs cultural and community needs.

This is a direct result of our collaboration and willingness to work together for better results on both sides.



Cultural dance performed at the Coffs Harbour NAIDOC event 2019



Our children are our future...children being deadly at NAIDOC Coffs Harbour 2019.



Community events are extremely important for cultural connection and healing.

Impact/What's Next?

The impact of the NDIS is already apparent in our community. We have seen families with huge improvements in their packages which has increased engagement with not only community but other family members as well.

This has given participants a greater quality of life, and their families much needed support and increased health and social wellbeing.

Moving forward Galambila is looking to expand on the services we are able to provide to community which will also have a flow on effect like increased employment for our mob.

Acknowledgements

A special acknowledgement goes out to the NDIA for listening to our needs and requirements and then acting on these to ensure our mob are receiving the support and access to services that are required to help them take full advantage of their package that has been provided.