



# **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION BOOKLET**

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Ver: 1.0

Dated: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## Version Control

No	Date	What	Who
1	17 <sup>th</sup> July 25	First Release	Stuart Robert

## 1. WELCOME TO A BRIGHTER ROAD

We are committed to delivering high-quality support and services, and we look forward to working with you and supporting you in achieving your goals.

This Participant Information Booklet has been designed to:

- Provide you with some important information about us and the services we offer.
- Assist you to know who to contact when you need to.
- Provide you with information about our obligations to you and your responsibilities to us.

For more information about Brighter Road:

Call	0497 550 926
Email	<a href="mailto:admin@brighterroad.org.au">admin@brighterroad.org.au</a>
Visit	<a href="http://www.brighterroad.org.au">www.brighterroad.org.au</a>

## 2. OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

Our dedication lies with upholding the principles and goals of the NDIS. We hold the belief that individuals with disabilities should:

- Receive reasonable and necessary supports.
- Have the freedom to make choices in pursuing their objectives and the planning and delivery of their supports.
- Be supported to participate in and contribute to social and economic life to the extent of their ability
- Obtain assistance beyond the scope of the NDIS and be aided in synchronising these services with those offered under the NDIS

## 3. OUR SERVICES

At Brighter Road, we provide high quality services and support in the following areas:

### a. In-Home and Community Supports

- i. Support Connection (level 1)
- ii. Coordination of Supports (level 2)
- iii. Assistance in Coordinating or Managing Life Stages, Transitions and Supports

### b. Professional Registration Groups

- i. Specialised Support Coordination (level 3)
- ii. Plan Management

Our delivery service approach consists of the following:

- Person-Centred Approach: We believe in a person-centred approach, which means that your goals, preferences, and needs are at the forefront of our service delivery. We respect your choices and decisions and drive to provide support that is meaningful to you.
- Individual Goal Setting: We will work collaboratively with you to set clear and achievable goals. Your goals will form the basis of your support plan and guide our interventions to ensure we are working towards your desired outcome.
- Support Planning: Our team will assist you in developing a support plan that outlines the specific services and supports you require. This plan will be regularly reviewed to ensure it continues to meet your evolving needs.
- Regular Review and Feedback: We value your feedback and encourage open communication. We will regularly review your progress and seek your input to make any necessary adjustments to your support plan or service delivery.

## **4. OUR PROCESS**

### Eligibility

We provide services to individuals who meet specific eligibility criteria. You may qualify for services and support from Brighter Road if you:

- Are a person with a disability within the age range permitted by Brighter Road's NDIS registration.
- Reside in proximity to Brighter Road's operational location.
- Require assistance from Brighter Road for a service or support listed in the "Our Services" section above.
- Have access to funding, whether that be government or private funding.

### Initial meeting

We will arrange a meeting to get to know you, discuss your needs, and request copies of your NDIS Plan and other relevant documentation so we are well-equipped to provide you with the assistance you require.

### Service agreement

Once you have chosen us as your service provider, we will work with you to develop a service agreement. This agreement outlines the support you will receive, associated costs, and terms of service delivery. Should you fully understand and be satisfied with the terms laid out in the Service Agreement, we will request your signature and ask you to return the agreement to Brighter Road for formal execution. Upon Brighter Road's execution of the agreement, both parties will be legally bound by its terms.

Brighter Road's Service Agreement templates are on the website at the bottom of the site.

## **5. SUPPORT PLANNING**

Once you have begun utilising our services, we will conduct an assessment to better understand your needs, strengths and desires. You will actively participate in this assessment and have the option to involve an advocate, your family, or anyone else you choose. You will receive a copy of the assessment for your records.

Following the assessment, we will collaborate with you, your support team, family, and any chosen advocates to develop and document a personalised support plan. This plan will be tailored to complement your strengths, address your needs, and align with the existing support network.

To acknowledge your involvement in the development of the support plan, we will request your signature. You will also receive a copy of the plan for your reference. Regular plan review will be conducted to assess your progress and accommodate any changes you wish to make to the support being provided.

Brighter Road Ltd is currently going through its Audit to become an NDIS registered provider, thus we uphold the requirements of relevant legislation and funding agreements, ensuring that we meet your expectations and deliver a high standard of service. Our commitment to excellence extends to adhering to the NDIS Practice Standards, ensuring that our support and services are in accordance with your NDIS Plan.

## **6. OUR STAFF**

At Brighter Road, we employ qualified and experienced staff who are dedicated to providing high quality supports and services. All staff are required to provide Brighter Road with evidence they have obtained the necessary checks (police clearance and Working with Children Check) and have completed the required training as per the NDIS requirements.

At Brighter Road, we understand the importance of finding the right Worker who can meet your needs and help you achieve your goals. We take into consideration various factors such as personality, language, culture, and skills requirements when assessing the best match for you.

We highly value your input and if you prefer one or more specific Workers, we will make every effort to accommodate your request. However, the feasibility of accommodating your preference depends on factors such as qualifications, competence, availability, and suitability of the Worker in relation to your specific needs and goals.

We strongly encourage your active involvement in the process of matching your needs with the right Worker. Your opinion is highly valued, and we appreciate your insights. Additionally,

if you wish to have an advocate by your side during this process, we are here to support you in accessing the advocate of your choice.

## **7. CODE OF CONDUCT**

Brighter Road and its staff comply with the NDIS Code of Conduct and must:

- Act with respect for individual rights to freedom of expression, self-determination, and decision-making in accordance with relevant laws and conventions.
- Respect the privacy of people with disability.
- Provide supports and services in a safe and competent manner with care and skill.
- Act with integrity, honesty, and transparency.
- Promptly take steps to raise and act on concerns about matters that might have an impact on the quality and safety of supports provided to people with disability.
- Take all reasonable steps to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, exploitation, neglect, and abuse of people with disability.
- Take all reasonable steps to prevent and respond to sexual misconduct.

## **8. WHAT WE EXPECT FROM YOU**

You and your Representatives agree to:

- Inform Brighter Road about how you wish the Services to be delivered to meet your needs.
- Collaborate and actively participate in the development and review of your NDIS plan.
- Provide accurate and up-to-date information necessary for the delivery of services, including relevant medical, personal and contact details.
- Communicate openly and honestly with Brighter Road, and inform of any concerns you have with any of the Services being provided.
- Treat all Brighter Road's staff, workers and others present during the delivery of support and services with courtesy and respect.
- Give Brighter Road the required notice if you cannot make a scheduled appointment, noting that if the notice is not provided, Brighter Road's cancellation policy will apply.
- Pay all invoices for agreed services, transport and/or other expenses promptly.
- Immediately notify Brighter Road if there is a change to your NDIS plan, if it is suspended, replaced by a new plan, or if you stop being an NDIS participant.

## **9. WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US**

Brighter Road will:

- Once agreed, provide supports that meet your needs and at your preferred times.
- Communicate openly and honestly in a timely manner.
- Treat you with respect, dignity and courtesy.

- Guarantee our sensitivity towards your culture, diversity, values, and beliefs, and your right to express and practice these.
- Consult you on decisions about how supports are provided.
- Give you information about managing any complaints or disagreements and details of Brighter Road's cancellation policy.
- Support you to give feedback or make a complaint about service provision without any retribution.
- Listen to your feedback and complaints, and resolve problems quickly.
- Give you a minimum of 24 hours' notice if Brighter Road has to change a scheduled appointment to provide supports.
- Protect your privacy and confidential information.
- Respect your right to autonomy, intimacy and sexual expression.
- Provide information to you in way that is accessible to you.
- Review the provision of supports at least annually with you.
- Provide supports in a manner consistent with all relevant laws, including the NDIS Act 2013 and Rules, and the Australian Consumer Law.
- Keep accurate records on the supports provided to you.

## **10. FEES**

The Service Agreement contains detailed information about the services we will provide you, the associated fees, and when payments must be made. This must be agreed upon before services can commence.

## **11. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

If applicable, in situations where Brighter Road is authorised to provide support coordination alongside other supports, it is essential to address the potential conflict of interest that may arise. In the specific context of support coordination services, we take proactive measures to manage any perceived or actual conflicts of interest. When obtaining quotes for services on your behalf, we will strive to provide three quotes (if possible) from other service providers in addition to our own. This ensures that you have a range of options to consider.

We are committed to transparency and ensuring that you have full control over the support you receive. You will always be informed of alternative providers who are available to offer the necessary support. This empowers you to exercise your right to choice and control in selecting the support that best suits your needs, including considering options outside of Brighter Road.

If there are any relevant conflicts with other providers that have a relationship with Brighter Road, we will disclose this information to you. It is important that you are fully informed when making decisions regarding your support.

The decision to choose Brighter Road's services and support or to opt for an alternative provider rest entirely with you. Your choice will have no impact on the services or support provided by Brighter Road. We are committed to delivering the highest level of support and ensuring that your decisions are respected and honoured.

## **12. PRIVACY**

At Brighter Road, we value and respect your privacy rights. We are committed to maintaining the confidentiality of your personal information in accordance with legislative requirements. We collect personal and sensitive information to effectively assess, plan and deliver high-quality services tailored to your individual needs.

In certain circumstances, it may be necessary for Brighter Road to disclose your personal information to deliver services or comply with legal obligations. We will only disclose personal information outside of Brighter Road when you have given consent, when it aligns with the purpose for which the information was collected, and/or when there is a legal requirement to do so. In some cases, information may be disclosed without your consent if mandated or authorised by law.

You have the right to request access to and update/change the personal information held by Brighter Road. If you wish to exercise this right, please contact us directly. For further information regarding our storage and usage of personal information, we are happy to provide you with copies of our Privacy and Information Management Policy.

## **13. YOUR SAFETY**

Brighter Road will endeavor to provide a safe environment for you and a safe workplace for our staff. We do not tolerate any form of harassment, bullying or discrimination or other form of unacceptable conduct. Any form of physical, verbal, sexual or threatening behavior, intentional or unintentional, is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Our Incident Management and Reporting Policy will be used to manage these situations if they arise.

We encourage an environment where clients and staff are treated with dignity and respect and where staff conducts themselves professionally at all times.

As a person using our services you have a right to feel safe and be free from abuse and neglect. We have a complaints process which you should use if you feel unsafe. If you feel you need an advocate to make a complaint or report any inappropriate behaviour we can support you to access an advocate of your choice.



## 14. FEEDBACK AND COMPLAINTS

Brighter Road values and recognises the importance of receiving feedback and complaints, in order for us to better serve and support you. If you wish to provide us with a complaint or feedback, you can do so:

- In person to the Director(s) or a staff member;
- Verbally by telephone to 0497 550 926;
- By email to [admin@brighterroad.org.au](mailto:admin@brighterroad.org.au);
- By post to 22 Country Crescent, 4211, QLD 4211 Australia
- On our website [www.brighterroad.org.au](http://www.brighterroad.org.au)

For all written complaints or feedback, we encourage you to provide your complaint in the form of our written Feedback and Complaints Form.

If you wish to make a complaint anonymously, you can do so via sending our Feedback and Complaints Form to our postal address listed above, or you can access assistance by choosing an advocate who can contact us on your behalf.

You can make a complaint to the NDIS Commission by:

- Phone: 1800 035 544 or TTY 133 677 (Interpreters can be arranged);
- National Relay Service and ask for 1800 035 544; or
- Visiting <https://www.ndiscommission.gov.au/about/complaints> and filling out a complaint contact form.

The NDIS Commission can take complaints from anyone about:

- NDIS services or supports that were not provided in a safe and respectful way
- NDIS services and supports that were not delivered to an appropriate standard

We will resolve complaints promptly in accordance with our Feedback and Complaints Policy.

## 15. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Brighter Road is committed to ensuring that an incident management system is maintained that complies with the requirements under the NDIS Scheme (Incident Management and Reportable Incidents) Rules 2018. Our Incident Management System is documented in accordance with our Incident Management Policy. If you would like a copy of the policy, we would be pleased to provide a copy to you.

If you observe or are the subject of an incident that does or could cause permanent or temporary detriment to you or another person, you must report this incident to us. You will be protected against any adverse actions, as a result of reporting or alleging that an incident has occurred. There will be no negative consequences for reporting incidents.

Incidents that occur in relation to the provision of Brighter Road's services are managed consistently and effectively in accordance with our Incident Management Policy. This policy includes procedures that we consistently follow to assess, investigate and resolve incidents. We also have procedures in place to help support you in relation to incidents which may impact or affect you.

## **16. EMERGENCY AND DISASTERS**

We are committed to the safety, health, and wellbeing of our NDIS participants and workers. To uphold this commitment, we have established our Emergency and Disaster Management Policy to guide our actions during emergencies or disasters. This policy adheres to the NDIS Practice Standards and seeks to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of all Participants and Personnel before, during, and after emergencies or disasters.

In the event of an emergency or disaster, our workers will be trained to follow the procedures set out in the Emergency Management Plan, ensuring you are safe, and your supports are maintained during this time.

A Participant Emergency Plan will be completed in collaboration with you and your representative/family, to ensure your specific support needs are taken care of and appropriate procedures are in place during an emergency.

## **17. EXITING SERVICE**

We will not limit any to your support due to a dignity of risk choice that has been made by you. You can leave our services at any time and in accordance with the terms of our Services Agreement. We will support you to find other services if you require assistance. If you have consented to do so, we will share any information during this process in collaboration with your new provider to ease this transition.

Should you wish to return to us at any time our staff will be happy to support you through the intake process.

From time to time there may be a need for us to advise you that we are no longer able to provide you services. We will only withdraw services if we are permitted to do so in accordance with the terms of our Services Agreement. If this does occur, we will work with you to find and access a provider who is able to support you.

## 18. CAN SOMEONE SPEAK ON MY BEHALF?

At Brighter Road, we understand the importance of your rights and concerns being represented during service delivery. You have the right to be supported by an advocate at any time, and we encourage their involvement during the assessment and planning process. Advocates can be family members, friends, medical practitioners, or from advocacy bodies. If you need assistance in accessing advocacy services, we can provide a list of advocacy bodies upon request. If you need an advocate to express your concerns or if you need extra support, please follow the link provided below to find advocate services in your state:

<https://dana.org.au/>

Your voice matters, and we are committed to ensuring that you have the support that you need.

Participant/Representative Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant/Representative Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager/Supervisor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Manager/ Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_