In 2016/17 the Partners in Recovery program will be in a transition year as we prepare for the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in our region.

NDIS will be introduced in the Scenic Rim area from 1 July 2017 and the rest of the Brisbane South catchment area from 1 July 2018.

The Partners in Recovery program aims to support people with severe and persistent mental health issues with complex needs, along with their carers and families.

This is achieved by coordinating multiple support services to address needs and improve overall health and wellbeing of participants.

Partners in Recovery has introduced a new referral form to all referrers in preparation for the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Based on feedback from our partners and external service providers, the PIR referral form has been updated in line with the changed scope of the program, to support both participants and referrers through this transition period. This new form will improve the quality of information and relevant documentation required to support the referral into the program and support service providers to make informed decisions regarding participant eligibility.

**Partners in Recovery remains a central point of referral for people aged over 25 years who:**

- have severe and persistent mental health issues that impact their lives
- have complex needs that require services from multiple agencies
- require substantial assistance to access the right services to meet their needs
- require help to organise the services already supporting their needs
- have no existing coordination arrangements in place to assist in accessing services.

**What’s changed?**

- The new referral form asks for more detailed information to assist with the expediency of the intake process.
- If insufficient information is provided the referral will be placed on hold subject to more information being supplied, with contact made to the referrer.

**Transition process**

- From Monday, 24 October, only referrals on the new template will be accepted from service providers.
- If an old form is submitted we will call the referrer to provide any additional information required on the new referral form.
- New referral forms will be supplied to referrers for future use.
- From 1 January 2017, if an old form from service providers is submitted it will be returned to the referrer with a request to submit on a new form.
- For self referrers, family or carers, Central Intake will continue to contact to update information onto the new form.