**Project Aim:**To explore why the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plan use varies across NDIS participants in Victoria.

**Project team:** Ms Alex Devine, from the Disability & Health Unit at the University of Melbourne, leads this component of the project. Professor Anne Kavanagh and Professor Bruce Bonyhady lead the broader program of work on how people use their NDIS Plans in Victoria.

**Project summary:** The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) commissioned this project because we know that low use of NDIS plans is a significant issue of concern. We urgently need an in-depth exploration of the groups and support types that are most affected the reasons for variation in utilisation and recommendations for policy interventions to address the problem. We are interested in exploring the difference in plan use in groups, such as urban versus regional participants, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, and those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

**Potential impact:** Results will contribute to finding better ways for NDIS plans to be allocated and spent. Overall, study findings could lead to better matching of NDIS Plans to participant needs, removing some of the barriers and ultimately improving the lives of NDIS participants.

**Qualitative interviews:**We plan on conducting up to 100 qualitative interviews with NDIS Participants and/or their plan nominees. For now, interviews will be via phone or online, which will take between 60 to 90 mins. We also want to ensure we include NDIS participants (and/or their plan nominee) with a psychosocial disability; participants who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; participants who identify as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD); and participants from migrant and refugee backgrounds. All participants will be provided with detailed information about the project and asked to sign a participant consent form before participating. Interviewees that are NDIS participants will receive a $100 Visa debit card as reimbursement of their time and input to this research project. Participation is entirely voluntary and anonymous.

## **Why we are contacting you:**We are beginning recruitment that will take place between April and September, and so are contacting you as an organisation who could assist us in reaching NDIS participants who might want to participate in the study.

**Research Team and Contact Information:**

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| Ms Alex Devine (Responsible Researcher)  Disability & Health Unit, UoM, 0415 570 109; [alexandra.devine@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:alexandra.devine@unimelb.edu.au) | Dr Mediya Rangi (Project Researcher)  Disability & Health Unit, UoM, 0439 695 602  [mediya.rangi@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mediya.rangi@unimelb.edu.au) |