

NATIONAL DIABETES SERVICES SCHEME (NDSS)

The National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) is administered on behalf of the Australian Government by Diabetes Australia under a five year agreement. The scheme has been running since 1987 and Diabetes Australia has been the administrator through a series of agreements. The Scheme is managed by the Department through the Pharmaceutical Access and Quality Branch, Medical and Pharmaceutical Services Division.

The NDSS provides access to products and services needed for the self-management of diabetes at prices subsidised by the Australian Government. The products include syringes, insulin infusion pump consumables and glucose testing reagents.

The number of persons with diabetes registered with the NDSS increased by 8.66 per cent in 2005-2006 compared with 10.00 per cent for 2004-2005. Details of registrant numbers are as follows:

Number of persons with diabetes registered with NDSS						
Year	Insulin using	% change	Non insulin using	% change	Total	% change
1990-91	74,532		36,182		110,714	
1991-92	83,179	11.60	53,711	48.45	136,890	23.64
1992-93	92,131	10.76	74,750	39.17	166,881	21.91
1993-94	99,419	7.91	98,518	31.80	197,937	18.61
1994-95	108,123	8.75	125,071	26.95	233,194	17.81
1995-96	119,520	10.54	153,175	22.47	272,695	16.94
1996-97	131,012	9.62	183,678	19.91	314,690	15.40
1997-98	141,627	8.10	220,599	20.10	362,226	15.10
1998-99	139,211	-1.71	247,751	12.30	386,962	6.82
1999-00	153,701	10.41	292,256	17.96	445,957	15.25
2000-01	163,202	6.18	330,717	13.16	493,919	10.75
2001-02	175,011	7.24	374,983	13.38	549,994	11.35
2002-03	184,893	5.65	421,570	12.42	606,463	10.27
2003-04	200,979	8.70	458,480	8.76	659,459	8.74
2004-05	222,791	10.85	502,614	9.63	725,405	10.00
2005-06	229,693	3.10	558,521	11.12	788,214	8.66

The chart on the following page shows the NDSS expenditure from 1992-1993 to 2005-2006.

The Australian Government is concerned at the increasing incidence of diabetes in the Australian community and, particularly, the difficulties encountered by people with diabetes in managing the condition. The Government provides considerable direct support to people with diabetes through the supply of essential medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and through the NDSS. In the 2005-2006 financial year, Australian Government outlays on diabetic supplies amounted to \$334.7 million, an increase of \$26.5 million over the previous financial year.

The Australian Government expenditure on the NDSS for the 2005-2006 financial year was \$104.8 million, an increase of \$10.7 million over the previous financial year.