

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 Access and Systems Branch, Pharmaceutical Benefits 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 6.37 per cent in 2007-2008 compared with 9.85 per cent for 2006-2007. 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	57,087		12,121		69,208	
1991-92	67,693	18.58%	19,479	60.70%	87,172	25.96%
1992-93	79,010	16.72%	29,476	51.32%	108,486	24.45%
1993-94	90,962	15.13%	42,643	44.67%	133,605	23.15%
1994-95	103,263	13.52%	58,300	36.72%	161,563	20.93%
1995-96	116,275	12.60%	76,772	31.68%	193,047	19.49%
1996-97	129,076	11.01%	98,810	28.71%	227,886	18.05%
1997-98	142,484	10.39%	128,162	29.71%	270,646	18.76%
1998-99	155,943	9.45%	161,678	26.15%	317,621	17.36%
1999-2000	169,306	8.57%	202,549	25.28%	371,855	17.08%
2000-01	182,327	7.69%	246,805	21.85%	429,132	15.40%
2001-02	195,294	7.11%	298,599	20.99%	493,893	15.09%
2002-03	207,632	6.32%	353,825	18.50%	561,457	13.68%
2003-04	219,718	5.82%	409,150	15.64%	628,868	12.01%
2004-05	231,563	5.39%	466,409	13.99%	697,972	10.99%
2005-06	243,023	4.95%	525,365	12.64%	768,388	10.09%
2006-07	255,482	5.13%	588,580	12.03%	844,062	9.85%
2007-08	275,527	7.85%	622,340	5.74%	897,867	6.37%

The chart on the following page shows the NDSS expenditure from 1992-1993 to 2007-2008.

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 2007-2008 financial year, Australian Government outlays on diabetic supplies amounted to \$425.2 million, an increase of \$47 million over the previous financial year.

The Australian Government expenditure on the NDSS for the 2007-08 financial year was \$126.1 million, an increase of \$12.4 million over the previous financial year.