When the NDIS was originally envisaged in its early kind of pilots and design phases, the idea was that it would operate in much the same way across Australia. A central feature of the design was that it would be nationally consistent. Has this been the experience of NDIS participants and providers in rural and remote areas of Australia? How has COVID-19 changed access to services in these areas?

In this episode, we hear from <u>Dr Stuart Wark</u>, from the School of Rural Medicine at the University of New England. He talks about the key issues that NDIS participants in rural and remote areas are facing and how the uptake in the use of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic could improve access to services for NDIS participants. You can learn more about Dr Wark's work in <u>his article in the Rural and Remote edition of IDA</u> magazine. ASID members can watch <u>Dr Wark's webinar with Laura Hogan</u> on Issues for rural and remote Australia.

We also hear about <u>Associate Professor Angela Dew</u>'s research projects including: a project at Sydney University funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council looking at allied health services in regional, rural and remote areas of New South Wales; and her more recent work within an Australia Research Council Indigenous Discovery grant looking at NDIS planning in remote areas. You can read more about this project in <u>IDA's September 2020</u> issue.

Read the transcript of this interview on the ASID website.

Look out for the upcoming rural and remote special issue of journal RAPIDD which Dr Dew is guest editor for (expected mid 2021).

We also have a bonus episode due in mid 2021 where you will hear more about rural and remote issues from a service provider perspective.

We value your feedback on the podcast. If you'd like to suggest a topic or guest, you can email us at podcasts@asid.asn.au

This episode was produced by Emily Churchill, Gordon Duff, Buffy Gorrilla, Associate Professor Hilary Johnson, and Sophia Tipping, with thanks to the Living with Disability Research Centre.

Look out for future episodes on our website <u>www.asid.asn.au/</u> and tweet us at <u>@ASID_Ltd</u>

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To find out about the benefits of joining ASID: www.asid.asn.au/members/why join asid

This podcast was recorded on the unceded lands of the aboriginal peoples of Australia. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.