

Accessing the NDIS

Information you need to know to access the NDIS

Availability in your area

The NDIS is being introduced progressively around Australia from 1 July 2016. To participate in the NDIS right now, you must live in an area where the NDIS is currently available. In some of these areas, you also need to be a certain age.

You may meet the access requirements up to six months prior to the NDIS rolling out in your area.

How people will join the NDIS has been agreed by Commonwealth and State / Territory governments.



- Be aged less than 65 when you first apply to enter the NDIS and meet additional age requirements if you live in SA or TAS;
- Live in Australia in an NDIS area on a specified date;
- Be an Australian citizen or hold a permanent visa or a Protected Special Category visa.

Note: If some of the above requirements are not met but you live in a NSW NDIS area that is phasing and you are under 65 years of age, you may still meet the access requirements if you are in an existing qualifying program. Contact us for more information.

Becoming a participant

To become an NDIS participant you will need to meet the age, residency and disability or early intervention access requirements and give your consent to join the Scheme. In some States and Territories people currently receiving supports will be moving to the NDIS first.

If you already receive supports from a State or Territory government disability program, you will receive a letter then a phone call from an NDIS representative when it is time to transition to the NDIS.

Until you have transitioned to the NDIS and have an NDIS plan, your existing supports and services will continue.



Preparing to access the NDIS

If you already receive supports from a State or Territory government disability program, you will be contacted by a National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) representative when it is time to transition to the NDIS.

For some people already receiving supports from State and Territory disability programs, evidence of your disability may not be needed. This is because some State and Territory programs have the same eligibility criteria as the NDIS.

If you do not currently receive disability supports and the NDIS is available in your area you can request access by calling the NDIS.



Can I access the NDIS?

To become an NDIS participant you must:

- Have a permanent impairment that significantly affects your ability to take part in everyday activities, or have a developmental delay;



Who can help you prepare to access the NDIS?

You can choose who you work with to help you prepare to access the NDIS. You might work with a family member, friend or carer, an NDIS Local Area Coordinator or early childhood partner, a General Practitioner (GP) or other health professionals.



Evidence of your disability

To allow the NDIA to determine whether you meet the disability or early intervention access requirements, you may need to provide us with evidence of your disability. This includes information on what your disability is, how long it will last and its impact on your life.



Evidence of disability and functional impact may be provided by a health professional in the following ways:

- in the NDIS Supporting Evidence Form;
- in the Access Request Form; or
- via existing assessments or reports.

For some disabilities, information about impact on functionality may not be required. These disabilities are listed in the Operational Guidelines on Access at www.ndis.gov.au.

What is the role of your health professional in the NDIS access process?

GPs and other health professionals may be asked to provide evidence to support a request to access the NDIS.



This may involve:

- completing the NDIS Supporting Evidence Form or sections of the Access Request Form;
- documenting that the person has or is likely to have a permanent disability; and
- providing copies of reports or assessments that outline the extent of the functional impact of the disability.

When documenting the impact of a person's disability a GP or other health professional will be asked to write down how your disability impacts your mobility/motor skills; communication; social interaction; learning; self-care; and self-management.

If a health or education professional finds that a child aged 0 to 6 years may benefit from early intervention or disability support under the NDIS, they should refer the parents to an NDIS early childhood partner. See www.ndis.gov.au for more information.

How long will it take?

You may meet the access requirements up to six months prior to the NDIS rolling out in your area. You will commence your planning conversation in line with the timeframe agreed between the Commonwealth and State / Territory governments.



Once you are granted access to the NDIS you will be contacted to begin your planning conversation.

Until you have transitioned to the NDIS and have an NDIS plan, your existing supports and services will continue.

It is expected to take between six to twelve months for eligible people with disability to enter the NDIS once roll out starts in an area. You can talk to your Local Area Coordinator or NDIA representative about this.

More information

www.ndis.gov.au



1800 800 110
8am to 5pm (local time) Monday to Friday

For people with hearing or speech loss



TTY: 1800 555 677



Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727

For people who need help with English



TIS 131 450



Follow us on Twitter @NDIS



Find us on Facebook
Facebook/NDISAus

*1800 calls from fixed lines are free.
Calls from mobiles may be charged.

Developing your first NDIS plan

As you prepare to enter the NDIS you may have some questions about planning – so we've put together some facts about developing your first plan to help you get NDIS Ready.

Everyone who enters the NDIS from 1 July 2016 will receive a first plan

How people will join the NDIS has been agreed by Commonwealth, State and Territory governments.

You can apply to enter the NDIS six months prior to the Scheme rolling out in your area.

Once you've gained access to the NDIS we will work with you to develop your first plan.

Your first plan is your entry point to the NDIS and the start of your relationship with the Scheme.



Your first plan will identify the reasonable and necessary supports you require to meet your immediate needs and start to identify and achieve your goals.

Once completed – your first plan will provide you with individualised funding that you control and choose how to use.

To get ready for the NDIS and your first plan, start thinking about your immediate support needs and what your current and future goals might be.

How do I get my first plan?

Once your access to the NDIS is confirmed, you and/or your nominee will be contacted by a representative of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to have a planning conversation.



Most people's first plans will be completed over the phone, through a planning conversation between the participant (and/or their nominee) and an NDIA representative about their existing supports, needs and main goals.

If you are not able to complete your planning conversation over the phone or are not in a position to do so, the NDIS will make alternative planning arrangements.

Everyone will have the same access to supports and services irrespective of how their planning conversation takes place.

Once in the NDIS, your plan will be reviewed every 12 months, including your first plan.

If your circumstances or needs change you can talk to us about having your plan reviewed at any stage.

What if I already receive supports?

If you already receive supports from a State or Territory government disability program, there are agreements in place which may mean you qualify to directly enter the Scheme.



In this event, you will be contacted by an NDIA representative when it is time to transition from your existing program to the Scheme and develop your first plan.

Your existing supports and services will continue until you have an NDIS plan.

The NDIS will use the information about your existing disability supports to begin to develop your first plan. An NDIA representative will then have a conversation with you and/or your nominee to consider any gaps or unmet needs in your current supports and how they link to your goals.

This process ensures a timely and orderly entry to the NDIS where you can gain access to the Scheme and activate your first plan quickly.

It also limits the need for you to 're-tell your story' in developing your first plan.

The NDIS funds reasonable and necessary supports

For a support to be funded it needs to be linked to an outcome you have identified in your plan and it also must:

- Be associated with day-to-day living and activities that increase your social or economic participation
- Be a resource or piece of equipment, such as wheelchair, assistive technology or home and car modifications, to help you live an ordinary life
- Help you build the skills you need to live the life you want, such as opportunities to work, further your education, volunteer or learn something new.



Goals in your plan

You might not yet know what goals you want to set for the future. That's ok, your first plan focuses on what you need right now and gives you some time to think about your longer-term needs and goals.

It's good to start talking to your family, friends and carers about what your goals might look like now and into the future.



What happens next?

Once your first plan is finalised you will be contacted by an NDIA representative to discuss how to put it into action. This contact will happen within seven days of you receiving your plan.

The NDIS will then work with you to implement your plan. This support could be provided by a Local Area Coordinator, a plan support coordinator or another party who will help you to connect with community and mainstream or funded supports.

As a participant, you will be able to contact your NDIA representative at any stage. They will also check in with you to discuss ideas to help you achieve your goals and connect you to community activities and mainstream support.

Your first plan will give you time to think about how the supports you currently receive are working for you and what else you might need to achieve your longer-term goals before your scheduled plan review in 12 months.

More information

www.ndis.gov.au



1800 800 110
8am to 11pm (local time)
Monday to Friday

For people with hearing or speech loss



TTY: 1800 555 677



Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727

For people who need help with English



TIS: 131 450



Follow us on Twitter @NDIS



Find us on Facebook
Facebook/NDISAus

*1800 calls from fixed lines are free.
Calls from mobiles may be charged.



There are lots of things you can write down by yourself or with a family member, carer or provider to help you get ready for your first NDIS planning conversation.

We will ask questions about how you are going in different areas of your life. This will help us to develop a plan that provides the right support for you.

We will ask these questions again at plan reviews, so you can tell us how you are progressing, and if any adjustments need to be made.

Information from these questions will also be important for tracking the progress of the NDIS, and will help to improve the Scheme for everyone.

If possible, we will also interview a family member, to see how they are going as well.

Here are some examples of things you will be asked about in your first NDIS planning conversation.



1

Your personal details

You will be asked your name, age, where you live and about your primary disability. Make sure you have all your personal details and any reports or assessments in one place to help with this.

Write down your personal details.



2

Your community and mainstream supports

You will be asked about what support you currently receive from people in your life and in your local community. This can include things like health services or help at school and sports groups, as well as friends and family who help you.

Write down your current supports.



3

How you manage everyday activities

We'll ask you questions about how you manage your everyday activities. This helps us to understand what your abilities are as well as what you might need, including equipment, accommodation or help to take care of yourself or your home.

Write down what you would like to discuss.



4

Your safety

We'll ask you some questions so you can let us know if there are any areas in your life where you may feel unsafe or where you might need extra help.

We want to support people to learn how to do things safely.

Write down what you would like to discuss.



5

Setting your goals

We'll talk about your goals for the next 12 months and what you are hoping to achieve through your first plan, particularly about your immediate and essential needs.

Goals could include: how you will increase choice and control in your life; learning and education; work; social and community activities; investigating housing options; or improving your health and wellbeing.

We will also talk about how you are going to explore and develop your longer term goals over the next 12 months.

Write down what you would like to discuss.



6

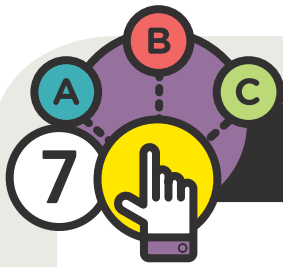
Starting your plan

We'll ask you how you want to manage your plan. Your NDIS plan will include a statement about how NDIS funded supports will be managed. The plan must specify that funding is to be managed by:

- you or your nominee (such as Mum or Dad)
- a registered plan management provider
- or the NDIA.

The NDIS will work with you to start your plan.

Write down what you would like to discuss.



Next steps

At the end of our conversation we'll talk about the next steps, including your plan approval and starting to use the funding in your plan.

For participants who will have an LAC to support them to implement their plan:

A Local Area Coordinator (LAC) from an NDIS partner organisation will be in contact with you to discuss your plan, help you access supports and discuss your longer term goals under the NDIS.

For participants who receive help from a Support Coordinator to implement their plan:

Your plan will include funding for a Support Coordinator to help you implement your plan. Once your plan is approved, this person will contact you to discuss your plan, help you access supports and discuss your longer term goals under the NDIS.

For participants who are self-managing:

You will be contacted by the NDIS once your plan is approved and we will talk to you or your nominee about the opportunities and responsibilities of self-managing your plan.

Write down what you would like to discuss.

For more information about the NDIS please contact:

www.ndis.gov.au

National Disability Insurance Agency

 Telephone 1800 800 110

 Find us on Facebook/NDISAus

 Follow us on Twitter @NDIS

For people who need help with English

 TIS: 131 450

For people with hearing or speech loss

 TTY: 1800 555 677

 Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727