



Information about the NDIS for GPs and health professionals

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing disability support.

What is the NDIS?

The NDIS will provide all Australians under the age of 65 who have a permanent and significant disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to enjoy an ordinary life.

The NDIS will help people with disability achieve their goals. This may include greater independence, community involvement, employment and improved wellbeing.

As an insurance scheme, the NDIS takes a lifetime approach, investing in people with disability early to improve their outcomes later in life.

The NDIS also provides people with disability, their family and carers with information and referrals to existing support services in the community.

The NDIS is being introduced progressively around Australia from 1 July 2016.

By 2019, the NDIS will support about 460,000 Australians with disability.

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

Who can access the NDIS?

To become an NDIS participant a person must:

- have a permanent disability that significantly affects their ability to take part in everyday activities, or have a developmental delay;
- be aged less than 65 when they first apply to enter the NDIS;
- be an Australian citizen or hold a permanent visa or a Protected Special Category visa; and
- live in Australia where the NDIS is available.

People can also access the NDIS for early intervention and a specific Early Childhood Early Intervention approach has been developed by the NDIS for children aged 0 to 6 years.

Is support available for people who do not meet the access requirements for the NDIS?

A person does not have to be an NDIS participant to receive support from the NDIS.

The NDIS will connect people with disability, their families and carers, including people who are not NDIS participants, to disability and mainstream supports in their community.

What evidence is required for someone to access the NDIS?

To enable the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to determine if a person meets the disability or early intervention access requirements, they may need to provide us with evidence of their disability. This includes information on what their disability is, how long it will last, and its impact on their life.

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

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

For some people already receiving supports from State and Territory disability programs, evidence of disability may not be required. This is because some programs have the same disability criteria as the NDIS. People in these programs will be contacted directly by the NDIA to progress their access request.

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 GPs in the NDIS access process?

General Practitioners 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 relevant to the diagnosis that outline the extent of the functional impact of the disability.

When documenting the impact of a person's disability the following six functional domains need to be addressed: mobility/motor skills; communication; social interaction; learning; self-care; and self-management.

If a health 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.

The health system and the NDIS

Like all Australians, NDIS participants are likely to need healthcare services throughout their lives. Participants may also have more complex healthcare needs associated with their disability.

The NDIS is not intended to replace the supports or services provided by other mainstream systems.

NDIS will fund supports which help the participant manage ongoing functional impairment that results from their disability such as:

- supports that enable participants to undertake activities of daily living;
- aids and equipment.

The health system is responsible for assisting participants with the treatment of health conditions, such as:

- diagnosis and treatment of health conditions (including ongoing or chronic);
- medications and pharmaceuticals;
- time limited, recovery-oriented (rehabilitation) aimed at restoring their health.

Information relating to how specific work practices may change during the transition to the NDIS will be provided by relevant State and Territory departments.

More information

Visit the NDIS website or call us:

 www.ndis.gov.au

 Telephone 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

 Find us on Facebook/NDISAus

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