

# The National Disability Insurance Scheme

## Information for long term and permanent guardians

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### What is the NDIS?

The NDIS funds reasonable and necessary support to help children with disability or developmental delay reach their goals in a range of areas.

The NDIS helps eligible children, their families and carers access services and support in their communities and can provide funding for disability supports like early childhood intervention and other therapies, community access, wheelchairs and other equipment or communication devices.

The NDIS may also fund supports to increase the capacity for families and carers to care for their children and young people for example, vacation care and respite.

### Accessing NDIS support

#### The role of the 'Child Representative'

The *NDIS Act 2013* requires that participants under 18 be represented by a parent or guardian. This person is known as the 'Child Representative'.

When a child has a long-term guardian or a permanent guardian, the guardian will be the Child Representative.

The Child Representative is responsible for:

- providing consent for your child or young person to access the NDIS or the Early Childhood Approach (ECA) pathway
- working with the Local Area Coordinator to gather eligibility evidence to support an NDIS access request
- acting as the contact point for your child or young person for the NDIS
- making decisions about the planning process, including what to ask for and who takes part in meetings

- signing agreements with service providers for supports to be delivered to your child or young person under their NDIS plan.

### Access to the NDIS for children aged 0-9

An ECA Partner is the first point of contact with the NDIS for children aged 0-9 with a disability or developmental delay.

To access the ECA pathway, the Child Representative makes contact with the local ECA Partner where the child currently lives.

The ECA Partner can assist with:

- providing information about mainstream supports and services for a child
- making connections for your child with relevant services in their area like their community health centre or local playgroup
- providing short-term early intervention therapy support
- NDIS access a if longer-term support is needed
- coordinate a combination of these options.

### Access for children and young people aged 9+

NDIS Local Area Coordinators support **children aged 9+, young people and adults** to access the NDIS.

In general, accessing the NDIS involves:

- gathering eligibility evidence and completing an Access Request form
- working with an NDIA planner or Local Area Coordinator to develop an NDIS Plan.

## NDIS plans and support

NDIS plans are developed through a meeting with an ECA Partner, a Local Area Coordinator (LAC) or NDIS Planner, the child or young person, the Child's Representative, Child Safety and other support people.

NDIS funded supports may include:

- skills and capacity building (e.g. support to shop or catch public transport safely)
- supports to enable sustainable caring arrangements (e.g. vacation care)
- therapy and behaviour support
- aids and equipment, including mobility equipment and consumables (e.g. wheelchairs, hearing aids)
- home modifications and transport to get out and about
- disability-related training for parents/carers
- support coordination - service providers who help people implement their plans.

### Developing a child or young person's NDIS plan

Children and young people are more likely to receive an NDIS plan that meets their needs when all the relevant information is available at their NDIS planning meeting.

You can support this process by providing information about how the child or young person's disability or developmental delay impacts on their ability to:

- undertake self-care tasks (e.g. showering, dressing, eating meals, getting ready to leave the house)
- socially interact with others (e.g. communication and relationships)
- learn
- get around (mobility)
- self-manage (e.g. behaviour, emotions).
- the supports and services your child has previously received and those you feel are missing, including cultural connections.

Further information needed includes:

- the child or young person's goals and aspirations.
- any disability-specific supports that would help you and better understand the child or young person's needs.

### Implementing the NDIS plan

During development of an NDIS plan, the Child Representative can request funding for support coordination. The support coordinator will be the first provider engaged as part of the plan.

The support coordinator will help with choosing and connecting with mainstream, community, and NDIS-registered support services.

Once implemented, the NDIS plan will be discussed and monitored through Child Safety case plans reviews and placement meetings.

### Reviewing the NDIS plan

A child or young person's plan can be reassessed or reviewed for a number of reasons, including:

- the child has had a change of circumstance (e.g. changed living arrangements)
- the plan does not meet the child's increased disability needs and there is new evidence to support this
- the plan is due to expire

## Payments and allowances

If you receive an allowance from Child Safety in addition to the fortnightly caring allowance, this allowance may be reviewed and adjusted accordingly if disability costs previously covered by the allowance are included in the child's NDIS plan.

### Further information

- [NDIS website](#)
- [Caring for a child with an NDIS plan](#)
- [NDIS planning for children in care](#)