

# NDIS planning and implementation

## Information for Foster and Kinship Carers

### About the NDIS

The NDIS helps eligible children and their families access services and support in their communities to reach their goals in a range of areas. Funding is provided through an NDIS participant plan and may be used for:

- support workers to enable skill and capacity building
- therapy e.g. psychology, speech, physiotherapy
- behaviour support
- aids and equipment, including wheelchairs and other mobility equipment
- consumables e.g. continence aids, PEG formula
- home modifications and transport
- disability-specific parent and carer training programs
- support coordination.

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

See factsheet [‘Information about the National Disability Insurance Scheme \(NDIS\)’](#) for further details.

### How the NDIS plan is developed

Once a child or young person’s access to the NDIS is approved, the NDIS Planner will contact their NDIS Child Representative (their guardian—this may be their parent, long term guardian, or Child Safety) to schedule a time to develop their NDIS plan. This is known as the planning meeting.

When Child Safety is the NDIS Child Representative, we may include the following people in the planning meeting:

- The child (where appropriate)
- The child’s parent/s (where appropriate)

- You as the child’s Foster/Kinship Carer
- The Child Safety Officer (CSO) or Team Leader
- A Transition Officer (for young people aged 15-18 years)

If the child’s parent is their NDIS Child Representative and they do not invite you to the meeting, we will collect and provide your input.

Following the planning meeting, the NDIA will create an NDIS plan for the child and provide a copy of the plan to the Child Representative.

### Preparing for the planning meeting

The NDIS provides disability supports that are specific to the child’s disability or developmental delay and that are additional to the needs of children of similar ages in similar care arrangements.

As a carer, you can help ensure the child receives the disability supports they need from the NDIS by considering and keeping notes about:

- How the child’s disability or developmental delay affects their:
  - ability to undertake the tasks of daily living (e.g. showering, dressing, eating meals, getting ready to leave the house)
  - communication
  - relationships
  - behaviour
- The supports and services the child already uses each week and the supports and services that are missing
- The child’s goals and aspirations for the next 12 months
- Any disability-specific supports that would help you to better understand the child’s

needs and be able to better care for the child.

Discuss your ideas with the CSO. They will lead the planning preparations and they can provide you with a pre-planning guide as well as connect you to useful NDIS resources.

## Implementing an NDIS plan

Implementing the plan involves:

- understanding the plan and the support budgets within the plan
- choosing appropriate service providers and establishing service agreements with them
- sourcing quotes for any aids and equipment approved in the plan.
- Funding for 'support coordination' may be included in the NDIS plan. When included, a Support Coordinator is the first service provider to be engaged.

Support Coordinators will work with the Child Representative and other relevant parties to implement the plan including sourcing providers and establishing and managing arrangements with them.

When Support Coordination is not funded as part of the child's plan, the NDIS Local Area Coordinator (LAC), or Early Childhood partner for children under 9, can provide support to help implement the child's plan.

Child Safety's preference is to use providers who are registered with the NDIA to make sure they are safe and quality providers.

## Plan changes

The child's NDIS plan is regularly discussed and monitored through case plan reviews and placement meetings.

### Flexible use of funds

NDIS funding is allocated against one or more of three support budgets:

- Core budget: for supports related to daily living and the child's longer-term goals
- Capital budget: for assistive technologies and equipment

- Capacity Building budget: for supports to build skills and independence e.g. therapies.

Funding can generally be used flexibly within each budget type, but still needs to last for the duration of the plan (usually 12 months).

### Changes to supports

Some changes to NDIS supports can be made by the Child Representative directly with providers without an NDIS review. These may include:

- changes to service providers
- changes to service types
- changes to frequency of a service.

Some changes may require the NDIS to review or reassess the plan—for example, when:

- there is a significant increase or decrease in the child's support needs
- there is an urgent requirement for an additional service type not already included in the plan
- a key life transition is approaching, such as leaving school, or leaving care.

You can talk to the child's CSO at any time about how the plan is working and any changes you would like to see happen to the plan.

## Further information

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