

Where is the NDIS?

The NDIS has been trialled in seven locations across the country, because it is a big change to the current system and we want to get it right. The scheme will be rolled out nationally from 2016.

The most up to date information on where the NDIS is available can be found on our website.



For more information

 ndis.gov.au

 enquiries@ndis.gov.au

 **1800 800 110***
8am to 5pm (AEST) 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

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

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This document provides general guidance about the operation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) as at the date of publication and is for general purposes only.

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ndis National Disability
Insurance Scheme

What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme?



Information about the NDIS,
what it does and how to access it

What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme?

The NDIS supports people with a permanent and significant disability that affects their ability to take part in everyday activities.

We will work with you to identify supports you need to live your life. Supports may help you achieve goals in many aspects of your life, including independence, involvement in your community, education, employment and health and wellbeing.

The NDIS gives you more choice and control over how, when and where your supports are provided, and gives you certainty you will receive the support you need over your lifetime.

It also focuses on early intervention where getting early supports can reduce the impact of disability on you or your child.

For people who access the NDIS (participants)

If you are able to access the NDIS as a participant, we will look at the supports you currently receive and how well they are working for you. This may include your family, friends, mainstream or other community services.

If required, the NDIS will also fund reasonable and necessary supports that help you achieve your goals such as therapies, equipment, home modifications, mobility equipment, taking part in community activities or assistance with employment.

An NDIS plan tailored to your individual needs will be developed to help you achieve your goals. This could include your existing supports if you are happy with your arrangements and if they meet your needs and goals.

For people who need some assistance

Anyone with or affected by disability can ask us for information and referrals, including families and carers of people with disability.

This can include better access to information about the most effective support options, links to local support groups, clubs and programs, or referrals to relevant community services and supports.

For families and carers

We work with families and carers to make sure the support they give can be sustained.

We consider the carer's role when developing plans with participants including the support they provide, other responsibilities, and their own life plans.

We also recognise some people with disability may want the support of family and carers to make informed decisions, and we value their views, knowledge and experience.



Can I access the NDIS?

You need to meet the following requirements:

- have a permanent disability that significantly affects your ability to take part in everyday activities
- be aged less than 65 when you first access the scheme
- be an Australian citizen, live in Australia and hold a permanent visa or hold a Protected Special Category Visa.

The NDIS is being introduced progressively across Australia.

The access checklist on our website provides more information on access requirements.

Next steps

Once the NDIS has confirmed you meet the access requirements of the scheme, a planner will arrange to meet with you.

Together, you will discuss your needs, goals and aspirations and the supports you currently receive.

This may take more than one meeting and you can bring someone with you for support.

Using this information, your planner will then develop a plan of supports that best meets your needs and your goals.