

NDIS

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME PRESENTATION

What is the NDIS

- ▶ The **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)** is a welfare support scheme of the Australian Government that funds costs associated with disability. The scheme was legislated in 2013 and went into full operation in 2020. The scheme is administered by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), overseen by the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission).
- ▶ The scheme entitles people with a "permanent and significant" disability (under the age of 65),^[8] to full funding for any "reasonable and necessary" support needs related to their disability (subject to certain restrictions). Funding is allocated to the individual, and the individual or their guardian chooses which providers supply the funded goods and services (subject to certain restrictions).

What is the NDIS

- ▶ The scheme is entirely publicly funded: recipients do not purchase or contribute to an insurance policy, nor is funding means-tested. The term 'insurance' refers to the scheme's use of proactive insurance principles to manage long term financial sustainability, and that it aims to 'insure' any citizen will have costs covered in the event they are born with or acquire a disability.
- ▶ Individual NDIS funding is independent of the Disability Support Pension and universal health care. NDIS legislation draws a distinction between health care and disability supports, only the latter being within the remit of the NDIS. In addition to funding for individuals, the scheme funds some general 'information, linkages, and capacity building' (ILC) programs

NDIS AIM

- ▶ Support to achieve greater independence
- ▶ Support to being more involved in the community
- ▶ Support in gaining employment, and
- ▶ Support with improved wellbeing

NDIS stats

- ▶ The NDIS will service 660,000 Australians as of full roll out of July 1st 2024.
- ▶ 40% of the participants are expected to engage with the NDIS as first form of disability support.
- ▶ NDIS is expected to create greater demand in services in the disability industry creating greater amounts of employment.

Types of Support

- ▶ Supports funded by the NDIS are split across three areas. "Core Supports" include everyday consumable items such as continence aids, personal care assistance, support with social and community participation and funding for transport.
- ▶ "Capacity Building" is intended to build the person with disability's independence and ability to manage their own life.
- ▶ The "Capital Supports" budget is intended for very expensive assistive technology and home or vehicle modifications.

Eligibility

- ▶ Permanent Australian resident or specific visa holders.
- ▶ Under the age of 65, 7 and under enter ECEI program and 8 to 65 full scheme.
- ▶ The participant's disability has a significant impact on the daily functioning of the potential participant.

Participant Pathway

- ▶ Access
- ▶ A community plan is created by the local partner then for full access.
- ▶ The participant applies for access to the scheme through an NDIS application to be filled via allied health professionals or medical professionals and/or a personal support request letter.
- ▶ Two types of access can be granted permanent for life long access and also early access which will be reassessed each year for eligibility.
- ▶ Once access has been granted a planning meeting will be arranged with an NDIS delegate or local area coordinator.

Participant Pathway

- ▶ In the meeting a series of over 100 questions will be asked about what the participant needs and wants are in terms of support needs.
- ▶ These supports must be related to the participants goals in either the short or long term.
- ▶ These also must be related directly to the participants disability.
- ▶ It must not replace any other service available.
- ▶ It must meet the reasonable and necessary criteria.

Participant Pathway

- ▶ Once a planning meeting has been held notes are written up for an NDIS delegate to build a first plan.
- ▶ Once the plan is built then the participant receives a copy in the mail and also then a local area coordinator or support coordinator depending on the level of support required by the participant.
- ▶ The support coordinator or local area coordinator will help them link into appropriate services to help the participant reach their goals.
- ▶ In 12 months time usually the participant will have a further planning meeting to review the goals and supports.

Reasonable and Necessary Support

- ▶ Reasonable and Necessary supports are specific related to section 34 of the NDIS.
- ▶ These are the areas of support when making a request to the NDIS that they will use to determine if they will fund a service or good.
- ▶ In terms of report writing these are the 6 different areas which will need to be referred to.

Reasonable and Necessary Support

- ▶ **1. The support will assist a participant to reach the goals and aspirations outlined in their participant statement.**
- ▶ This criterion is just one of the reasons why the goals section in the participant's statement is so important. The goals set by participants help determine what supports you can provide them. Therefore, it is crucial that we work with participants to ensure their goals accurately reflect what they hope to achieve with the support of the NDIS.
- ▶ It is worth noting that with My First Plan this criterion is not being consistently enforced. Instead, we often see participant's supports transitioning into NDIS, without necessarily being aligned to goals.

Reasonable and Necessary Support

- ▶ **2. The support will facilitate the participant's social and economic participation.**
- ▶ Facilitating increased social and economic participation is one of the underlying principles behind the NDIS. So it naturally follows that every support should work towards this goal. Increased economic participation does not mean that a person has to be working towards employment if this is not their goal nor does social participation mean they need to be pub-crawling on Friday nights. Instead, this criterion can be met if the participant is now able to go into the community, spend their money how they choose to and participate in the activities they want to do.

Reasonable and Necessary Support

- ▶ **3. The support represents value for money, relative to benefits achieved and costs of alternative supports.**
- ▶ We all know that cheaper is not always better. The headphones I bought at a variety store were cheap, but every time I try to listen to the latest musical soundtrack I hear a rough buzzing in my left ear. Luckily, the Act does not require participants to have to sing along to "Let It Go" with invisible bees. When choosing services, quality counts. Value for money might include making a more expensive, short-term investment that will save money in the long run. However, when cheaper options are available and are likely to achieve the same benefits, such as with group supports, a participant may be required to explore these alternatives.

Reasonable and Necessary Support

- ▶ **4. The support is considered good practice and is likely to be beneficial to the participant.**
- ▶ The NDIS will not fund supports if there is evidence to suggest that it will not work. The exception to this rule would be if a support has had a proven benefit for that participant. In 2015, the AAT allowed a participant to receive chiropractic treatment under the NDIS because that individual provided documented evidence that they had benefited from it. Nevertheless, another participant, who cannot prove a measurable benefit, might be unable to access this support.

Reasonable and Necessary Support

- ▶ **5. The support takes into account what is reasonable for parents, carers, informal networks and the community to provide.**
- ▶ When a child is two years old, it is reasonable to expect their parents or carer to bath them. When that same child is 40, it might start to become pretty strenuous for the parents. The NDIS, therefore, will often provide more funding for daily living when a child gets older. This allows children with disabilities to start gaining independence from their parents at the same age as their peers.

Reasonable and Necessary Support

- ▶ **6. The support is most appropriately funded through the National Disability Insurance Scheme.**
- ▶ The NDIS does not get any other government agency off the hook from their duties to people with disabilities. The Departments of Health, Education, Transport, Justice and all others still have to ensure their services are accessible to people with disabilities. Moreover, the NDIS will not fund the diagnosis and treatment of conditions that cause disability. They remain the purview of the Commonwealth and State Departments of Health. For example, if a participant requires an amputation, then surgery, medication, and short-term rehabilitation will be the responsibility of the Health system. The NDIS might then provide ongoing prosthetic aids and home modifications.