

# English

## Fact Sheet 2 What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme?

This fact sheet has been developed by AMPARO Advocacy to provide people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities with translated information about the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

**National Disability Insurance Scheme** is called the NDIS and is a new way to help people with disability get the care and supports they need. It is a free, national system so it will be the same for people all over Australia. It will be available all over the country in 2019, and starts in Queensland in 2016. People with disability who get support from the NDIS are called “participants”.

### Eligibility

**The NDIS is for people with disability who live in Australia and-**

- Are under 65 years of age when they first access the NDIS
- Are an Australian citizen **OR** a permanent resident, **OR** a New Zealand citizen who is a Protected Special Category Visa holders
- Have a disability that will not go away, is ‘lifelong’ and affects their ability to take part in everyday activities.

For people who are not eligible, the NDIS may be able to link them to find other suitable supports.

### Choice and Control

In the past, many people with disabilities in Australia often felt excluded from community life, and had little choice in how their supports were provided. In the NDIS, participants can decide what supports they want and how they receive them.



### Reasonable and Necessary Support

The NDIS can pay for supports that are reasonable and necessary for you. This means the supports are related to the person’s disability and are needed for you to live a good life, to take part in community activities and to reach their goals. You can have support from the NDIS for as long as you need this to help with your disability.

**The NDIS provides the supports people need to be part of the social and economic life of their community.** This might include-

Making relationships and feeling connected to others – being with family and friends

- Joining in community and social activities - including leisure activities
- Going to school, studying and having training - such as studying at TAFE or University
- General daily living tasks- such as making decisions, paying bills, and problem solving



- Communication- such as communicating and understanding others
- Mobility- such as moving around your home and community, or getting equipment or aids to do this
- Self-care and special healthcare needs- such as help with showering, getting dressed and having meals
- Activities at home- such as meal preparation and cleaning your house
- Employment- such as finding or keeping a job

## What the NDIS won't fund

The NDIS will not fund anything that-

- is not related to the person's disability
- relates to day-to-day living costs that are not related to the person's support needs
- should be funded by another agency, such as education, health or housing
- is likely to cause harm to the participant or to others.

## Children with disabilities

The NDIS can also help you get early support for a child with disability. Early support may help to reduce the long-term impact of disability on your child and your family. The NDIS calls this "early intervention".



## Pre-planning

People can start thinking now about how they want to live their life and what help they will need to do this. You can think about what help you need now to meet your goals and what support you may need in the future.

## How to find out if you are eligible

You can use the NDIS Access checklist to see if you might be eligible to receive support from the NDIS.  
<http://www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-access-checklist>

The NDIS will need information about your needs so they can decide if you can have support for your disability. You may be asked to fill in a form or speak to someone over the phone to provide information about your disability, your age and information about your citizenship or residency in Australia. Information and documents you need to provide (eg *evidence of disability, residency, age* etc) are available on the NDIS website.

**If you are receiving support for your disability now** the service providing this help may be able to give information about your needs to the NDIS.

**If you are not receiving support now**, you will need to give information about your needs to the NDIS. You can contact the NDIS when they are in your area. You can find out when they are in your area on the website [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)

## Working with the NDIS

The NDIS will contact you after they have your information and tell you if they can provide support to you. If you can have support from the NDIS they will speak with you to understand what your needs and goals are, what support you have now and how they can support you. The NDIS will work with you to make your first plan.

You can invite other people to help you to make this plan and you can ask for an interpreter or to have materials translated if you need them for these conversations.

## People with disability and their families

The needs of people with disability, including their choices and decisions are central to the NDIS making a plan to support them, but the role of families is also important.

People with disability can invite family and other supporters to help them with the NDIS planning process. The NDIS will think about ways to assist family to give ongoing support and will try to understand the family's role when making your plan, including the support they provide, other responsibilities they have, and their own life goals. The NDIS also understand that people with disability may want help from family to make informed decisions, and they will value their views, knowledge and experience.

## If you need an interpreter

If you need an interpreter to ask a question or find out more, call TIS on 131 450 and ask to be connected to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, 1800 800 110.



For more information [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)



**This information has been developed by AMPARO Advocacy Inc.**

*Whilst every care has been made to ensure that it is correct at time of publication, this material is meant to give a general overview but may not be accurate, current, or complete. Further advice regarding individual circumstances is highly recommended.*

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