



Understanding the NDIS

Book 1



Easy English



Hard words

This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**
- we write what the hard word means.

You can get help with this book



You can get someone to help you

- read this book
- know what this book says



- find more information.

About this book



This book is about the **National Disability Insurance Scheme** or NDIS.



The NDIS helps people under 65 with a **permanent** and **significant** disability.

Permanent means the disability will **not** go away.

Significant means the disability affects the things people need to do every day.



People with an NDIS plan will get

- supports

and

- services they need.





This book will help you

- know more about the NDIS

and

- find out how the NDIS can help you.

You can use this book in different ways.

For example



- share it with family and friends

- take it to your NDIS meetings



- write notes.



There are 3 books to read.



This is Book 1.



Book 2 will tell you how to make an NDIS plan.

Book 3 will tell you how to use your NDIS plan.

You will get the other books if you start to use the NDIS.



You can also find the books on our website www.ndis.gov.au.

About the NDIS

The NDIS will make sure people under 65 with a permanent and significant disability get the support they need.



The NDIS can give **early intervention** supports for

- people with disability
- children with **developmental delay**.

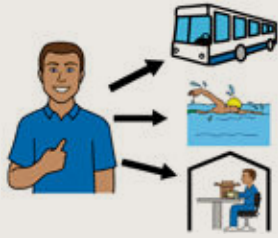


Early intervention means to treat something early to make it better later.



Developmental delay means a child finds it hard to do everyday things.

For example, have a conversation.



The NDIS will help people

- get skills
- be **independent**.



Independent means that you can do things

- by yourself
- with less help.



The NDIS will help people get

- information.

For example, information about the services where you live.

- access to services.

For example

- doctors
- sports clubs
- support groups.



What the NDIS will do



Every NDIS **participant** will have a plan.

Participants are people who get support from the NDIS.



Your NDIS plan will have

- **goals.**

Goals are things you want to happen.

For example

- get a job
- catch the bus
- make friends.

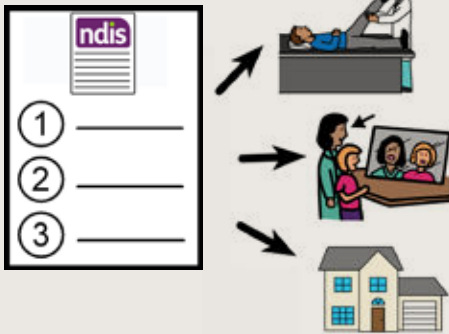


- how much money you get for supports and services.

Participants will use the money to make their goals happen.

If you have an NDIS plan you can say

- what supports you want



- when you get supports

- who you get supports from.

You can **not** get support that

- is part of a different government system



- does **not** support your disability.

People who do **not** get an NDIS plan can still get help to access other services that are **not** part of the NDIS.

Who helps to deliver the NDIS?



The **National Disability Insurance Agency** or NDIA is a part of the government that runs the NDIS.



The NDIA makes decisions about

- who can get an NDIS plan



- how much money you can get for your plan.



Early Childhood Early Intervention or ECEI partners help children with disability or developmental delay under the age of 6.

An ECEI Coordinator will help children reach their goals.



Local Area Coordinator partners will help participants

- understand the NDIS
- access the NDIS
- use their NDIS plan.



A Local Area Coordinator or LAC is someone who can help make your NDIS plan happen.

They can help you if you do **not** understand something.

Who can get an NDIS plan?

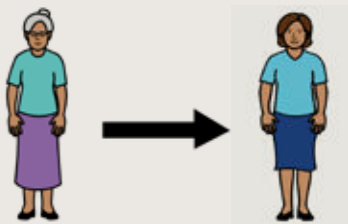


To get an NDIS plan you must meet the NDIS rules.

You must



- have a permanent disability
- have a significant disability that affects your everyday life



- be younger than 65 years old



- be an Australian citizen or have a certificate that says you can live here



- live in a part of Australia where the NDIS is already available.

What happens now?

If you already get disability support



A person from the NDIS will call you about an NDIS plan.



You might need to give us more information to help us decide if you can get a plan.

You will get the same supports that you get now until your NDIS plan starts.

If you do not get disability support now



If you do **not** get disability support and are 7 to 64 years old call an LAC partner or the NDIA.

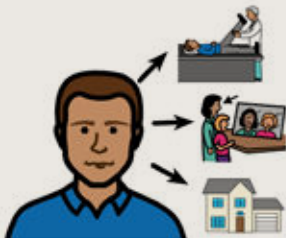
To find the LAC partner near you

- go to the NDIS website

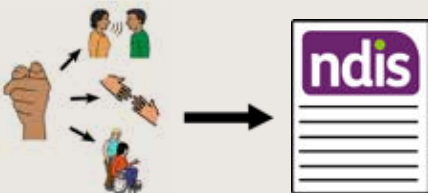
www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/locations

or

- call 1800 800 110.



The LAC will help you find supports and services in your area. This might be all the support you need.



If you need more support you might get an NDIS plan.

Your LAC can help you.



If you have a disability and are older than 65 years old you can **not** get an NDIS plan.

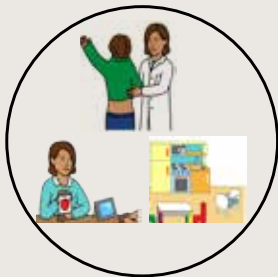
Go to the aged care website to find out about the support you can get instead.

www.myagedcare.gov.au

If you have a child between 0 to 6 years old with a disability or developmental delay



If you have a child younger than 6 years old with a disability or developmental delay call an Early Childhood Early Intervention or ECEI partner.



The ECEI Coordinator will help you get supports and services for your child's needs.

Early intervention might be all that your child needs to meet their goals.

If your child will need support for a long time the ECEI Coordinator will help you apply for the NDIS.

Who can help you?



You can get help from

- your family and friends



- a Local Area Coordinator or LAC

- an Early Childhood Early Intervention or ECEI Coordinator

- someone from the NDIA

- an **advocate**.

An advocate can help you

- make decisions
- say what you want.



You can choose who your advocate is.

How to ask for an NDIS plan



You can call the NDIS to ask about how you get an NDIS plan.

Call 1800 800 110.



You will need to give us information about you.

You can ask someone you trust to give us information about you.

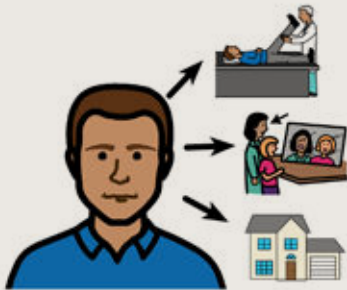
For example

- family
- friend
- advocate.



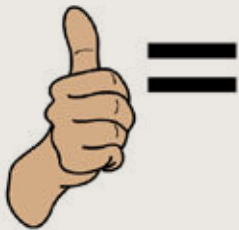
We will tell you if you meet the NDIA rules to get a plan.

What supports and services can you get in your plan?



The supports and services that could be part of your plan will help you to

- go to school
- get a job
- be part of social groups
- be independent
- live on your own
- be healthy.



Supports and services must be **reasonable** and **necessary**.

Reasonable means something is fair.

Necessary means something you need.



The support or service

- must be for your disability.
- must **not** be for everyday things.
For example, groceries.
- must be something you can afford with the money in your plan.
- must help you achieve your goals.
- should **not** be the same as the help you get from others.
For example from
 - carers
 - community services
 - government services.



NDIS and Disability Support Pension



The NDIS and the disability support pension are **not** the same thing.

If you get the disability support pension you might **not** meet the rules for the NDIS.



You will need to ask for an NDIS plan.

If you get an NDIS plan it will **not** change

- your disability support pension



or

- your carers allowance.

NDIS and other government services

The NDIS does **not** replace other help that the government gives to people with disability.

You can ask your LAC or the NDIA for information about government services that you use.



The NDIS will give money in your plan for help with

- education.

For example

- help you to eat your lunch at school
- special transport to get you to school.



- health.

For example

- wheelchairs
- hearing aids.

The NDIS will also give money in your plan for



- help to get a job.

For example

- screen readers
- teach you to use transport to get to work.



- family support.

For example

- teach family about your disability
- therapy.



Other government services will give money for

- education.

For example

- teachers to help you learn better
- accessible school buildings.



- health.

For example

- dentists
- hospital care.



- work.

For example

- help to find a job
- money to help you while you look for a job.



- family support.

For example

- counselling
- money to help you when you have a baby.

What happens next?



You must give us information about you and your disability.

We will decide if you can get an NDIS plan.



We will send you a letter to tell you if you

- get an NDIS plan



- do **not** get an NDIS plan.



If you get an NDIS plan you will have a meeting to talk about what support you need.



If you do **not** get an NDIS plan you can still get help to find other supports and services you need.

You can now read book 2 about planning.



More information

Go to our website

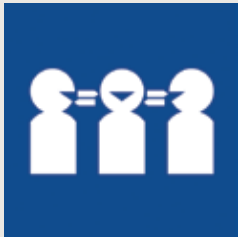
www.ndis.gov.au



Call 1800 800 110

Monday to Friday

8 am to 8 pm



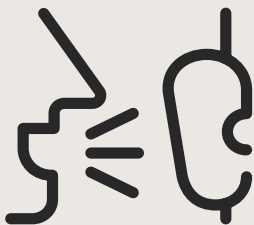
Telephone Interpreting Service

131 450



TTY users

133 677 then ask for 1800 800 110



Speak and listen users

1300 555 727 then ask for 1800 800 110

© Scope (Aust) Ltd. You may use this document for your own personal, non-commercial purposes only. You must not use the document for any other purpose, and must not copy, reproduce, digitise, communicate, adapt, or modify the document or any part of it (or authorise any other person to do so) without the prior consent of Scope (Aust) Ltd.

Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre

wrote the Easy English in August 2018. www.scopeaust.org.au.

To see the original contact The National Disability Insurance Agency.

The Picture Communication Symbols © 1981-2010 by Tobii Dynavox.

All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission.

ClipArt © Inspired Services, UK. www.inspiredservices.org.uk

Change picture © 2011. www.changepeople.co.uk