

Joining the NDIS



Easy English

This factsheet has some hard words. The first time we write a hard word it is in **blue**.

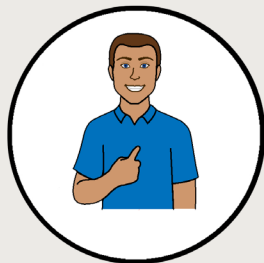
We write what the hard word means.

What is this factsheet about?



The **National Disability Insurance Scheme** is called the **NDIS**. The NDIS is a new way to help people under 65 with disability get

- care
- supports.



This factsheet is about

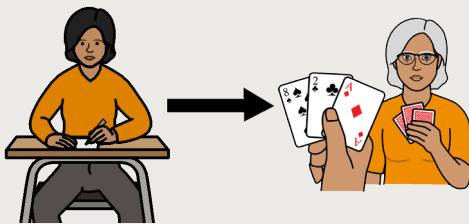
- what happens when you join the NDIS

- how the NDIS will work with you

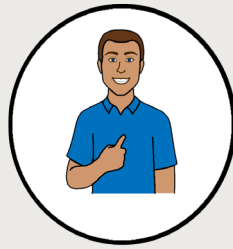
– now

and

– as your life changes.

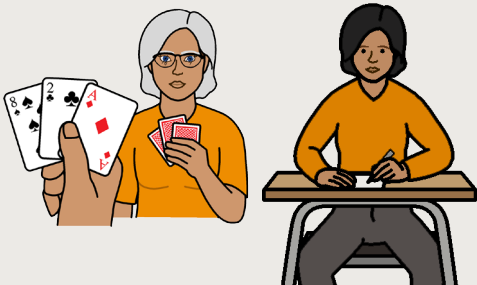


The NDIS and you

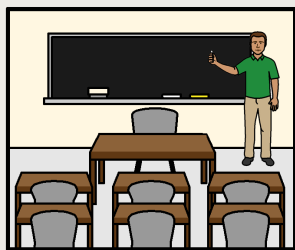


The NDIS wants people under 65 who have disability to be able to

- lead an **ordinary life**
- reach their goals in life.



An ordinary life means enjoy the things most people have or do. What an ordinary life means for a young person might be different for an older person.



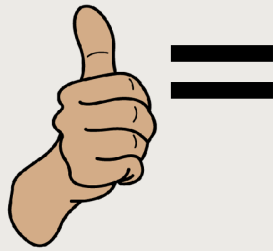
For example

- school might be a big part of an ordinary life for teenagers



- a good job might be a big part of an ordinary life for an adult.

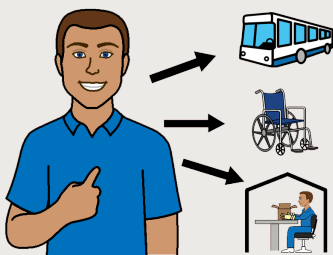
To help people under 65 with disability to lead an ordinary life the NDIS pays for supports



that are

- **reasonable**

and



- **necessary.**

Reasonable means something that is fair.

Necessary means something that you must have.

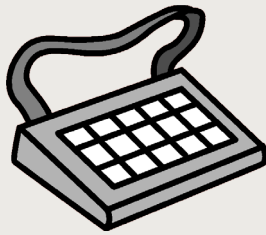
Our website tells you more about reasonable and necessary supports.

www.ndis.gov.au/participants/reasonable-and-necessary-supports

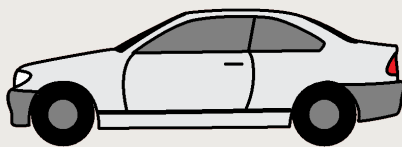
Different supports for different people

The NDIS will pay for different supports for different people. This is because different people will have different goals.

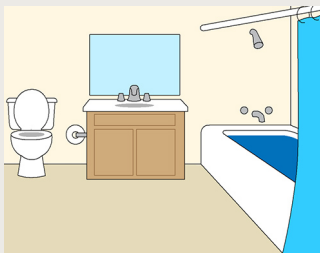
For example



- a person might want to talk to groups about disability. The NDIS might pay for a communication device for that person.

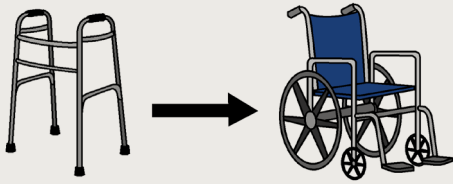


- a person might want to be able to drive to work. The NDIS might pay for changes to their car.



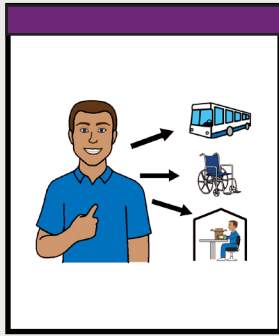
- a person might want to do more at home **without** a support worker. The NDIS might pay for a therapist to help make changes to the home.

The NDIS will be with you as your life changes



As your life changes, your support needs and goals might also change.

The NDIS will be with you to make sure you get the right supports as your goals and support needs change.

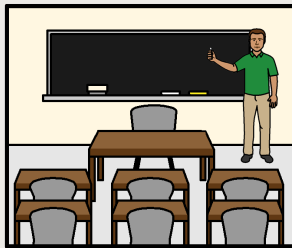


What the NDIS does

The NDIS pays for different supports for different people.

Services that anyone can use

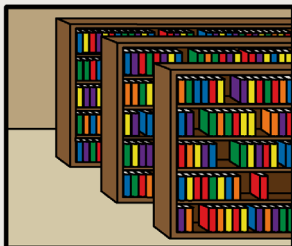
The NDIS might be able to help people with disability use services that everyone in the community can use. For example



- go to school



- see a doctor



- use a library

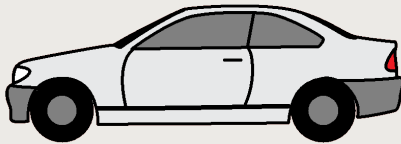


- join a club.

Disability services

The NDIS might also be able to help with other disability supports.

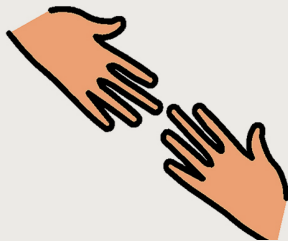
The supports must help you



- be more **independent**. Independent means you can do things by yourself. For example, changes to your car so you can drive to the shops.



- join in the community. For example
 - get a job
 - join a group.



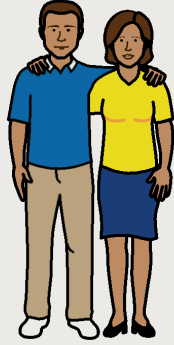
- get the help you need. For example
 - transport
 - a support worker to help you at home
 - therapy like physio.



- get equipment and aids you need. For example
 - a wheelchair
 - a communication device.

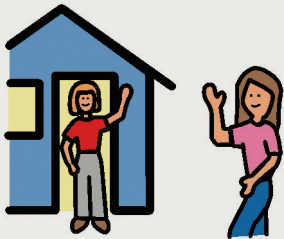
Informal supports

The NDIS will also look at your **informal supports** to see how they are working. These are the supports you get every day from people who care about you. For example, your



- family

- friends



- neighbours.

Who can get the NDIS

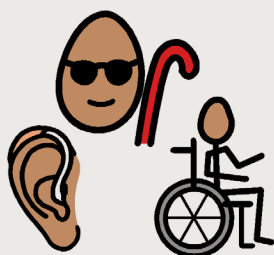


You must be allowed to live in Australia forever. This means you

- were born in Australia
- or
- have a special piece of paper saying you can live in Australia.



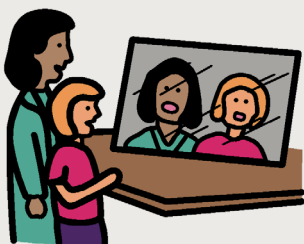
You must be under 65 years of age to get help.



You must

- have a **permanent** disability that fits the NDIS rules. Permanent means the disability will **not** go away.

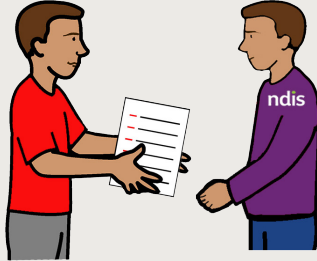
or



- need **early intervention**. This means to treat something early.

What you need to do

To get the NDIS we first need to know some information about you.



You already get supports

Your service providers might be able to give us the information we need.

You do not get supports

Contact us when the NDIS starts where you live. Our website will tell you when the NDIS starts where you live www.ndis.gov.au



People who can not get the NDIS

Some people will **not** fit the rules to get the NDIS. You might still be able to

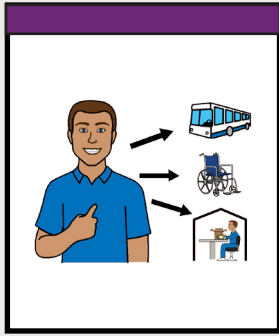
- use disability services
- services that anyone can use.

You can find out more on our website



www.ndis.gov.au/people-disability/information-and-referral

Your first NDIS plan



You will still get care and supports while you wait for your first NDIS plan to start.

Everyone in the NDIS gets their own NDIS plan. The plan says what care and supports you will get with the NDIS.

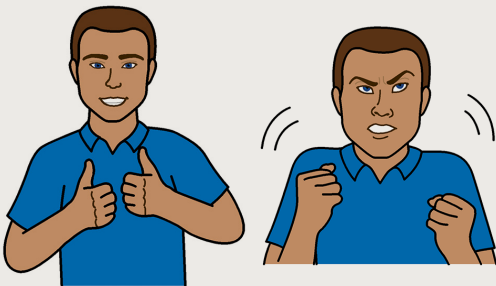


For your first plan you will talk with someone from the NDIS about

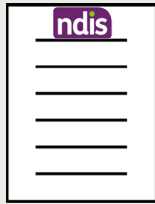
- the supports you get now



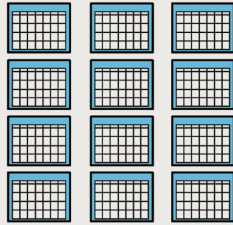
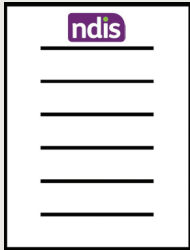
- how you do things now.
For example, how you take a shower.



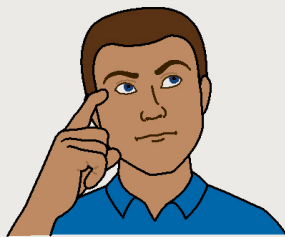
- what you are good at, and what is hard to do.



The NDIS will use the answers to help you write your first NDIS plan.



Your first plan lasts for 1 year.



In that year it is good to think about whether



- the supports you get are the right ones

- you have other goals and support needs

For example

– get a job



– play sport.



This will help you write your next NDIS plan.

Starting your first NDIS plan

The NDIS can help you start.



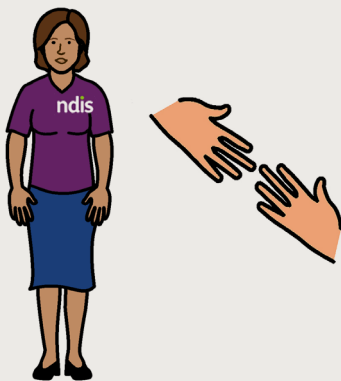
We call the people who can help you

Local Area Coordinators.



Local Area Coordinators can help you find

- activities in the community
- support services anyone can use.

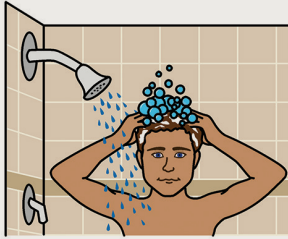


You make the choices

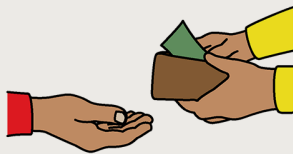


You can choose the service providers you work with. For example

- someone to help you cook meals



- someone to help you have a shower.



Paying service providers

- You can pay for your supports

or

- you can ask the NDIS to pay for your supports.

How you can see your plan



Go to

www.ndis.gov.au/participant-portal-user-guide

It will show you how you can see your plan on the **Participant Portal**. This is a special NDIS website.

Your plan review



We will **review** your plan with you after 1 year. Review means we will look at your plan again with you.

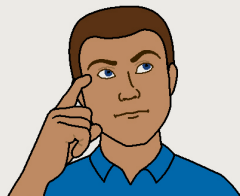
This will help you make your next plan.

When we review your plan, you can tell us



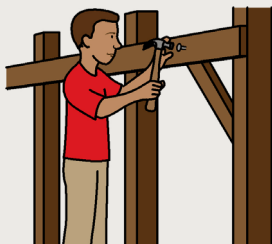
- what supports work well

- what supports do **not** work well



- what new supports you think you will need.

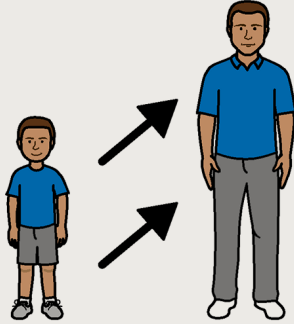
You do **not** need to wait until we review your plan to change service providers.



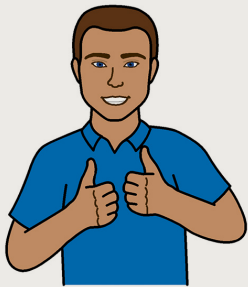
When we review your plan you can also tell us about new goals you have. For example, learn new skills to get a job.

How to get ready for your plan review

Before your plan review it is good to think about



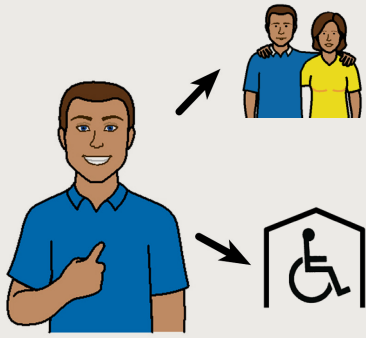
- how your life is
- how you want your life to be



- what you are good at
- what you like to do



- what is hard to do.



It is also good to think about the people who support you now. For example, a day service or your family.

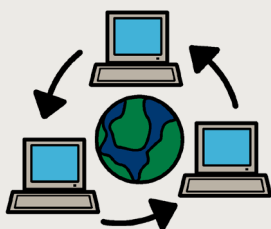
Write this down and take it to your plan review.



More information

Go to our website

www.ndis.gov.au



Call 1800 800 110

Monday to Friday

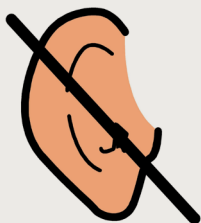
9am to 5pm



Is English hard for you?

Do you speak a different language?

Call 13 14 50



Are you deaf or hearing impaired?

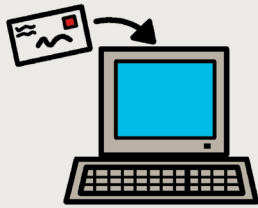
You can use TTY.

Call 1800 555 677

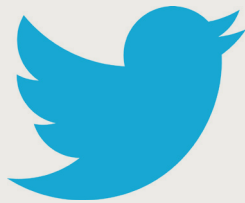
Then give the number 1800 800 110



Is your speech hard to understand?
You can use the NRS Speak and Listen
Call 1800 555 727
Then give the number 1800 800 110



Send us an email
enquiries@ndis.gov.au



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@NDIS



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[facebook.com/NDISAUS](https://www.facebook.com/NDISAUS)

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Scope's Communication and Inclusion Resource Centre

wrote the Easy English. June 2016 www.scopevic.org.au

To see the original contact the National Disability Insurance Agency.

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