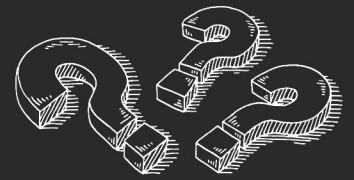




# Frequently Asked Questions



## WHO DOES THE NDIS SUPPORT?

- People with a permanent disability, their family and carers, by funding reasonable and necessary support for each person's unique needs.
- Other community, health and social services, by ensuring people are connected to the right services.
- All Australians, by providing a safety net for anyone who acquires a disability in the future.
- The NDIS is expected to provide funding to around half million Australians once it is rolled out across the nation.

## WHAT IS A LOCAL AREA COORDINATOR (LAC)?

- A Local Area Coordinator (LAC) is someone who will work with many NDIS participants to confirm or assess eligibility, undertake planning, and review supports in plans when they require updating.
- An LAC might be an employee of the NDIS or someone who is employed by a service contracted by the NDIS to deliver LAC services.
- You first contact about the NDIS might come from an LAC.
- Autism Plus can assist in finding you a LAC if required

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE NDIS?

Eligibility for the NDIS depends on where you live and the nature of your disability.

To access the NDIS, you must:

- live in an NDIS trial site or transition area

Have a permanent disability that:

- reduces your ability to participate effectively in activities, or perform tasks or actions, unless you have support.
- Affects your capacity for social and economic participation and means you are likely to require support under the NDIS for a lifetime.
- An Australian citizen, or the holder of a permanent visa / Protected Category Visa and be aged under 65.

## HOW DO YOU FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE?

People can find out if they are eligible for the NDIS funding through an online tool called the ACCESS CHECKLIST. Visit <https://www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-access-checklist> for more information.

## WHAT SHOULD I PLAN FOR?

When it's your turn to plan for transition to the NDIS, you should think about what is important to you. You could start by thinking about:

- what supports you currently access and whether these meet your needs
- what you want to learn
- where you want to live
- what sort of work or community activity you want to do
- whether you have enough support to do these things.

## WHAT SERVICE AND SUPPORT CAN PEOPLE ACCESS UNDER THE NDIS?

The NDIS will provide funding for 'reasonable and necessary' support, services and equipment. The supports and services provided should assist a person to:

- Do things independently
- Participate in the community
- Access educational opportunities
- Get a job and earn a wage
- Achieve goals
- Develop skills for daily living.

## WHAT DOES "REASONABLE" AND "NECESSARY" SUPPORT MEAN?

NDIA staff make decisions about what is 'reasonable and necessary' based on the rules within the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (NDIS Act).

To be considered reasonable and necessary, a support must:

- Be related to the participant's disability
- Not include day-to-day living costs that are not related to a participant's disability support needs.
- Represent value for money
- Be likely to be effective and beneficial to the participant, and
- Take into account informal supports given to participants by families, carers, networks, and the community.

## CAN I CHOOSE MY PLAN?

Yes, you can discuss your preference in your plan with your planner. This can be done through a meeting face to face, over the phone or online.

We recommend discuss your options with your chosen service provider when highlighting and nominating your preferences.

## WILL I GET THE SAME LEVEL OF SUPPORT THAT I GET NOW?

You should not be worse off under NDIS. To make sure you continue to receive the supports you need, it's important to understand what you receive now and talk about these supports in your planning meeting.

## CAN I CHOOSE ANY SERVICE PROVIDER?

Yes, you can choose who delivers your support and services under NDIS. Many providers are registered with the NDIS. This means they have had to meet criteria set out by the NDIS including demonstration of business registration and insurance and a commitment to meet quality and safeguards standards.

Autism Plus is registered and has met the criteria to provide services under the NDIS.

## WHAT IF I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT A DECISION MADE BY THE NDIS?

If you are not happy with a decision made by the NDIS, you should firstly appeal via the NDIS directly through their internal review process. (note this can take up to 6 months)

If you are still not happy following that process, you can appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal

