



National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

- NDIS is the new way of providing disability support

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (also called the NDIS) is the new way of providing disability support. It's currently being rolled out by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), an independent statutory agency.

The NDIS will provide all Australians under the age of 65 who have a **permanent and significant disability** with the **reasonable and necessary supports** they need to enjoy an ordinary life. It's not a means-tested system.

Examples of NDIS support services include:

- access to allied health professionals
- personal care
- help at work
- household chores
- aids and equipment
- transport and vehicle modification
- home modification.

Who can access the NDIS?

People who meet the NDIS access requirements are called participants. To become an NDIS participant you must:

- have a **permanent** disability that **significantly** affects your ability to take part in everyday activities
- be aged less than 65 when you first enter the NDIS
- be an Australian citizen or hold a permanent visa or a Protected Special Category visa
- live in Australia where the NDIS is available.

If you don't meet the access requirements for the NDIS, don't worry. The NDIS can still provide advice to you, and your family/carer, of services and support in your community.

What support is available for children aged 0-6?

The Early Childhood Early Intervention approach (ECEI) supports children aged 0-6 years who have a developmental delay or disability and their families/carers. The NDIS has engaged Early Childhood Partners around Australia to deliver the ECEI approach.

You can contact an Early Childhood Partner (via your local community health service) if concerns about your child's development have been identified. They will provide you with helpful information and depending on individual needs they may:

- connect you and your child with the most appropriate supports in your area, such as the community health centre, educational setting and playgroup
- provide some short-term early intervention where it's been identified as the most appropriate support
- help you to request NDIS access if your child requires longer-term early childhood intervention supports. If your child becomes an NDIS participant the Early Childhood Partner will work with you to develop an NDIS plan.

People aged over 65

If you're over the age of 65 there are other avenues to access funding to maintain existing disability supports or to instigate new service delivery. For more information contact the NDIS on 1800 800 110 or My Aged Care on 1800 200 422 if you're over 65.



When will the NDIS be available in my area?

- **Australian Capital Territory** - the NDIS is now available in the ACT.
- **New South Wales** - the NDIS is now available in the NSW.
- **Northern Territory** - currently the NDIS is available in the East Arnhem, Barkly, Darwin Remote and Katherine regions of the Northern Territory. From 1 July 2018, the NDIS will become available in the Darwin Urban and Central Australia regions of NT.
- **Queensland** - the NDIS is being introduced by region in Queensland. This means that in some parts of the state the NDIS is already available, while in others it has yet to begin.
- **South Australia** - the NDIS is being rolled out in South Australia by age group and by region. This means that the NDIS will be available to you depending on your age and where you live.
- **Tasmania** - in Tasmania the NDIS is being introduced by age group. This means that you will be able to enter the Scheme depending on your age.
- **Victoria** - the NDIS is being introduced by region in Victoria. This means that in some parts of the state the NDIS is already available, while in others it has yet to begin.
- **Western Australia** - the NDIS is currently implemented by the WA Government. From 1 July 2018 the NDIA will assume responsibility for the delivery of the NDIS in WA. The NDIS will continue to roll out on a geographical basis and will be fully rolled out across WA by 2020.

To find out if NDIS is available in your region you can contact your nearest NDIS office on 1800 800 110 or search online <https://www.ndis.gov.au/people-disability/fact-sheets-and-publications>

How do I apply?

If you meet the eligibility criteria, you can ask to become a participant by completing an 'Access Request Form'. If you're already receiving disability support services, you'll be contacted by the National Disability Insurance Agency as the NDIS becomes available in your area.

If you're not currently receiving any disability supports, but wish to join the scheme, you'll need to contact the NDIA and request an 'Access Request Form'. You can apply to join the NDIS up to six months before the scheme is available in your region. Upon receiving a valid access request, the NDIA must respond within 21 days.

People currently receiving support services

If you're already accessing disability support services in launch sites you'll be contacted by the NDIA to start working with them. A timeline for when this will occur is available on the NDIS website

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/people-disability/fact-sheets-and-publications>.

If you don't meet the current NDIS access requirements, but were accessing a disability service prior to being assessed, it's important to note that **you'll continue to receive support consistent with your current arrangements**.

Got a question?

For more information about the NDIS please contact:

- National Disability Insurance Agency
www.ndis.gov.au | 1800 800 110
- Musculoskeletal Australia
MSK Help Line: 1800 263 265
For help navigating the system.
- Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA)
www.dana.org.au

For people who need help with English

Translating and Interpreting Service
Telephone: 131 450

For people with hearing or speech loss

TTY: 1800 555 677

Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727

How we can help

Call our MSK Help Line and speak to our nurses.
Phone 1800 263 265 or email helpline@msk.org.au.

We can help you find out more about:

- arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions
- ways to live well with these conditions
- managing your pain
- upcoming webinars, seminars and other events.

More to explore

- National Disability Insurance Agency
www.ndis.gov.au | 1800 800 110
Facebook: NDIAus | Twitter: @NDIS

April 2018