



Community connections

Easy Read fact sheet



How to use this fact sheet



The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) wrote this fact sheet.

When you see the word 'we', it means the NDIA.



We wrote this fact sheet in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

Not bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 20.



This is an Easy Read summary of another fact sheet.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other fact sheet on the NDIS website.

www.ndis.gov.au/resources



You can ask for help to read this fact sheet.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What is in this fact sheet?

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About community connections



The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) can offer support to all people with disability.

You can get support even if you are not a **participant**.



Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.



If you are between 9 and 64 years old, we can connect you to:

- information in your community
- supports in your community.

We call this community connections.



Community connections can support you to:

- take part in your community
- do things that are important to you.



If a child is younger than 9 years old, we can offer them early childhood supports.



If you are 65 years or older, we can share information about aged care services that can support you.

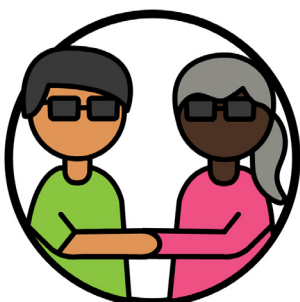
Community connections might work for you if you:



- need short-term support



- want more information about your disability



- want to connect with people who have the same experiences as you.

Community connections might support you if:



- you want to apply to the NDIS



- cannot take part in the NDIS.



When we connect you with supports, we do not give you any **funding**.

Funding is the money from a participant's plan that pays for the supports they need.

How to get community connections

To be connected with supports in the community, you can contact:



- the NDIS



- your **local area coordinator**.



A local area coordinator is someone who helps people with disability find and use supports and services.



You can find our contact information on page 19.

We can help connect you to:



- a local area coordinator

or



- an **NDIA planner**.



An NDIA planner is someone who:

- works for the NDIA
- makes new plans.



They can be your my NDIS contact.

Your my NDIS contact is a support person who you have a lot of contact with.



They can also support you to:

- understand the NDIS
- use the NDIS.

How community connections work

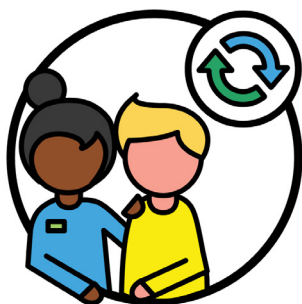


You can talk to your my NDIS contact about finding supports in the community.



You can also talk to them about community supports as many times as you need.

You might need community connections when:



- the supports you need have changed



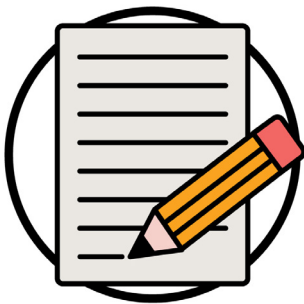
- you need more information



- you decide to apply to the NDIS.



You can choose how you use the information we share with you.

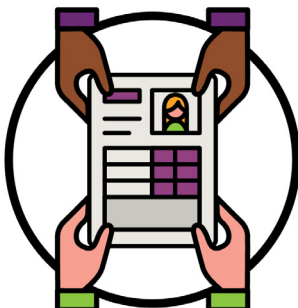


We can also write down what we talk about for you.

This might help if you:



- want more support to make community connections



- are happy to share your details with us.

Types of community connections

We can connect you to information



We can help you find useful information that is important for you.

This can include information about:



- your disability



- supports and services



- how **accessible** your community is.



When the community is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use services
- move around.



We can also help you find information about your **rights**.



Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



And we can help you find organisations that support you to speak up for your rights.

We can connect you to mainstream and community supports



We can connect you to **mainstream supports**.



Mainstream supports are from other parts of the government.

For example, health and education services.



We can also connect you to community supports.

For example, community and local council services.



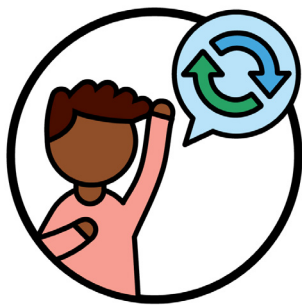
These are supports that everyone in Australia can use.

This includes people with disability.



We can explain what these supports are.

And how they can help you.



We can also explain what **reasonable adjustments** you can ask for.



When someone makes reasonable adjustments, they change services so people with disability can use them.

We can connect you to peer supports



We can connect you to people in your community who have the same experiences as you.

This includes **peer support** groups.



Peer support is when people use experiences they share to:

- feel connected
- help each other.

Peer supports can help you to:



- learn from other people's experiences



- share useful information



- grow the number of people who support you.

We can support you to apply to the NDIS

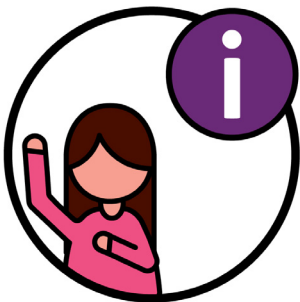


You might need more support than community connections can give you.

If you decide to apply to the NDIS, we will help you:



- understand what you need to take part in the NDIS



- work out what information you need to give us.



You can find out more about if you can take part in the NDIS on the NDIS website.

ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/disability-requirements

More information

For more information about this fact sheet, please contact us.



You can call us.

1800 800 110



You can send us an email.

enquiries@ndis.gov.au



You can visit one of our offices in person.

You can find an office near you on the
NDIS website.

www.ndis.gov.au/contact/locations

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this fact sheet mean.



Accessible

When the community is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use services
- move around.



Funding

Funding is the money from a participant's plan that pays for the supports they need.



Local area coordinator

A local area coordinator is someone who helps people with disability find and use supports and services.



Mainstream supports

Mainstream supports are from other parts of the government.

For example, health and education services.



NDIA planner

An NDIA planner is someone who:

- works for the NDIA
- makes new plans.



Participants

Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.



Peer support

Peer support is when people use experiences they share to:

- feel connected
- help each other.



Reasonable adjustments

When someone makes reasonable adjustments, they change services so people with disability can use them.



Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



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Notes





[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)