



Participating in the NDIS in the ACT

About the NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way of providing community linking and individualised support for people with permanent and significant disability, and people with severe and persistent mental illness in limited circumstances.

The NDIS will deliver a life-long approach to support people with disability through individualised planning processes to identify the reasonable and necessary supports you need to enable you to achieve your goals.

The NDIS is being rolled out in stages because it's a big change to the current system.

People living in the Australian Capital Territory can access the ACT area of the NDIS from 1 July 2014.

How do I participate in the NDIS?

To participate, you need to meet both the age and residence requirements. You also need to meet the disability or early intervention requirements.

Age requirements

You need to be aged less than 65 years when you make an access request.

Residence requirements

You need to:

- reside in Australia **and**
- be either an Australian citizen, a permanent resident of Australia, or a New Zealand citizen who is a Protected Special Category Visa holder **and**
- be currently living in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) **and**
- be living in the ACT or another 2014 trial site¹ on 1 July 2014 **or**
- living in a 2013 trial site² on 1 July 2013 **or**
- have moved to the ACT after 1 July 2014 for reasons such as work or education **and** exceptional circumstances apply **or**
- be a child born after 1 July 2014 and at least one of their parents cares for them and resides in the ACT on the day they are born **or**
- be a child that comes into the care of a person after 1 July 2014 and at least one of the people with parental responsibility was already living in the ACT on 1 July 2014 and this will be the child's place of residence.

If you moved to the ACT after 1 July 2014 you may meet the residence requirements if you moved to the ACT for the main reason of accessing supports not provided by the NDIS (such as education, employment, health care or family support).

Disability requirements

You will meet the disability requirements if:

- the disability is attributable to one or more intellectual, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairments or to one or more impairments attributable to a psychiatric condition **and**

¹ A 2014 trial site means the ACT, the Barkly area of the Northern Territory or the Perth Hills area of WA

² A 2013 trial site means Tasmania, South Australia, and the Barwon region of Victoria, the Hunter region of NSW

- your impairment is, or likely to be, permanent **and**
 - your impairment substantially reduces your ability to take part effectively in activities (ie communication, social interaction, learning, mobility, self-care or self-management), or perform tasks or actions unless:
 - you have assistance from other people on most days, **or**
 - you have assistive technology, equipment (other than common items such as glasses) **or**
 - you can't take part effectively even with assistance or aides and equipment; **and**
 - your impairment affects your capacity for social and economic participation **and**
 - you are likely to require support under the NDIS (and not another service system such as the health system) for your lifetime.
- interdisciplinary or generic care, treatment or other services which are of extended duration, and are individually planned and coordinated; and
- there is evidence that getting supports now (early intervention) will help you by:
 - reducing how much help you will need to do things because of your disability in the future; **or**
 - mitigating, alleviating, or preventing deterioration of your functional capacity or improving such functional capacity **or**
 - helping your family and carers to keep helping you **and**
 - those supports are most appropriately funded through the NDIS, and not through another service system (such as the health system).

An impairment that varies in intensity, for example because the impairment is of a chronic episodic nature, may still be permanent, and the person may require support under the NDIS for the person's lifetime, despite the variation.

Early intervention requirements

You may meet the early intervention requirements if:

- you have one or more identified intellectual, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairments that are, or are likely to be, permanent **or**
- you have one or more identified impairments that are attributable to a psychiatric condition **or**
- you are a child aged under 6 years with a developmental delay which results in:
 - substantially reduced functional capacity in one or more of the areas of self-care, receptive and expressive language, cognitive development or motor development **and**
 - results in the need for a combination and sequence of special

What happens next?

You can use [My Access Checker](#) on the website to see if you may be able to access support from the Scheme. If you think you may be able to access supports under the NDIS, then you will need to complete the Access Request Form.

More information

If you need help understanding the information in this fact sheet, or need more information, please:

- visit ndis.gov.au
- email enquiries@ndis.gov.au
- call 1800 800 110. TTY users phone 1800 555 677 then ask for 1800 800 110
- if you are a Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) user — phone 1800 555 727 then ask for 1800 800 110
- if you are an internet relay user — visit the National Relay Service website and ask for 1800 800 110.