



About the Independent Assessment Framework

A guide to the Framework

Easy Read version



ndis

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

How to use this guide



The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) wrote this guide. When you see the word 'we', it means the NDIA.



This guide is written in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We have written some 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 16.



This Easy Read guide is a summary of a page on our website.



You can find the Independent Assessment Framework page on **our website**.



You can ask for help to read this guide.
A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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What is functional capacity?

Functional capacity is a way of thinking about:



- your ability to do something
- the skills you have
- how you go about your everyday life.

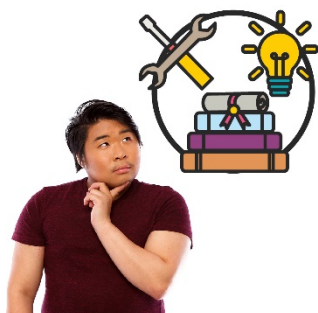


We sometimes call it your capacity.



Functional capacity is a key part of working out if someone can take part in the NDIS.

Your functional capacity can affect the way you:



- learn



- work



- do everyday tasks



- take part in the community.

Making the NDIS easier



We want to make the NDIS easier to use.

We also want to make sure it is:



- fair



- **consistent.**

When something is consistent, it is done the same way every time.



As part of this, we are going to start using independent assessments.

Assessments are how we work out:

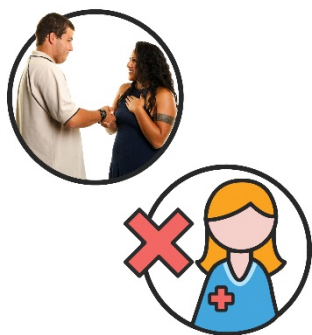


- how your disability affects your life



- what supports you need from the NDIS.

An assessment is **independent** when it is done by someone who:



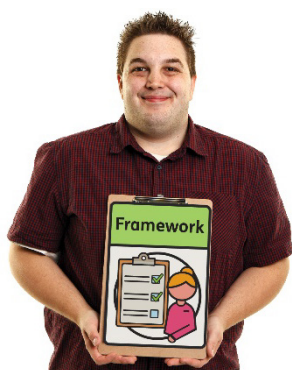
- doesn't already know you
- isn't the healthcare professional you usually see.

We explain what a healthcare professional is on page 8.



You can find more information about independent assessments on the Independent Assessments page on **our website**.

What is the Framework?



We wrote a document called the *Independent Assessment Framework*.

We call it the Framework.



Experts helped us write the Framework.

This includes:



- **academics** – people who work and study in universities



- **allied health professionals** – people who support people with disability, such as therapists and physiotherapists.

The Framework is also based on 2 important documents:



1. The *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (Cwth)

This is the law that explains how the NDIS works.



2. The World Health Organization International Classification of Functioning (ICF).

This is a document that makes a common language about disability.

It is used around the world.

The Framework explains:



- why we want to start using independent assessments



- how they will work



- how we will think about a person's capacity from now on.



You can find a copy of the Framework on **our website.**

How will this make the NDIS better?



We want to make the way we think about disability the same for everyone.



Independent assessments will help us do this.



And having a common language about capacity will help us too.



The Framework will make our decisions more **consistent**.



This means that decisions will be made the same way every time.



It will save people money.



From now on, people won't have to pay for an assessment of their functional capacity when they apply for the NDIS.



We will look at each person as an individual.



We'll think about the whole person, rather than just the disability.



And we'll understand that not everyone with the same disability needs the same type of support.

We'll make sure we think about each person's:



- health



- home life



- goals.



We'll focus on what:

- people can do
- supports they need.

More information

For more information about this framework,
please contact us.



www.ndis.gov.au



1800 800 110



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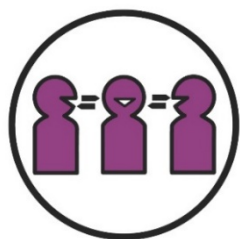
Support to talk to us



You can talk to us online using our webchat feature.

www.ndis.gov.au/webchat/start

If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

131 450

If you have a speech or hearing impairment, you can call:



TTY

1800 555 677



Speak and Listen

1800 555 727



National Relay Service

133 677

www.relayservice.gov.au

Word list



Academics

Academics are people who work and study in universities.



Allied health professionals

Allied health professionals are people who support people with disability, such as therapists and physiotherapists.

Assessments

Assessments are how we work out:



- how your disability affects your life



- what supports you need from the NDIS.



Consistent



When something is consistent it is done the same way every time.



Functional capacity

Functional capacity is:

- your ability to do something
- the skills you have
- how you go about your everyday life.

We sometimes call it your capacity.

Independent



An assessment is independent when it is done by someone who:

- doesn't already know you
- isn't the healthcare professional you usually see.



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