



Could your patient benefit from disability supports?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is designed to help people living with a significant and permanent disability to live their best life. Through the Scheme, your patients can access lifelong supports and services, enabling them to build their independence, pursue personal goals and aspirations, and get more involved in social, community and work life.

NDIS supports fall into three categories:

Core	Capacity building	Capital
Assists with activities of daily living (e.g. personal care attendant, transport, household cleaning, support worker)	Builds independence and skills (e.g. support and training to help find and keep a job, behaviour support to improve relationships)	An investment (e.g. assistive technologies); equipment and home/vehicle modifications; or funding for capital costs (e.g. Specialist Disability Accommodation)

Note: Assessment, diagnosis and treatment of health conditions, along with medications and hospital care, remain the responsibility of the health system.



What's new?

New, revised Access Request Form: Due for release in early 2021, the new form will make it easier for you to provide sufficient detail to support a patient's access request.

FREE Independent Assessments: From early 2021, NDIS applicants will be able to participate in a free independent assessment, as a way of providing objective evidence of the functional impact of their impairment.

Quick guide to eligibility: identifying suitable patients

To be eligible for the NDIS, patients must meet the following criteria:

- 1. AGE** – be aged <65 years*
- 2. RESIDENCE** – reside in Australia and be an Australian citizen, or hold a Permanent OR Protected Special Category Visa
- 3. DISABILITY** – have a physical, intellectual, cognitive, neurological, visual, hearing or psychosocial impairment that:
 - is (or is likely to be) permanent
 - substantially reduces their ‘functional capacity’
 - restricts their ability to participate in work/study, engage with peers and/or interact with their wider community (i.e. has a clear social and/or economic impact)
 - requires lifelong NDIS support.

*Refer children under 7 years old with developmental delay or disability to an NDIS early childhood partner (see below) for assessment. They will support the family to apply for the NDIS if appropriate. Refer patients 65 years or over who are looking for disability services and support for the first time to My Aged Care.

Note: If your patient has a permanent impairment that does not fully meet the disability requirement (e.g. it’s functional impact fluctuates and/or is still in its early stages but expected to worsen over time, such as multiple sclerosis), they may be eligible for early intervention supports instead. You can request consideration of early intervention on the Access Request Form.

Call on your NDIS Community Partners



Local Area Coordinators (LACs)

Local organisations that help deliver the NDIS in the community. Pre-access, LACs can provide patients with general information about the NDIS, so they can make an informed choice about whether or not to apply for NDIS funding and supports. LACs can then guide your patient through the process of making an access request. LACs can also help identify whether the supports your patient requires are best provided by the NDIS or other mainstream providers.



Early childhood partners

Community partners who assess and co-ordinate short-term support for children under 7 with a developmental delay or disability. If a child requires long-term support, the early childhood partner will assist the family to make an NDIS access request.

To find a LAC or early childhood partner in your area, visit [ndis.gov.au/contact/locations](https://www.ndis.gov.au/contact/locations)

Top tips to reduce requests for further information

As a treating professional, you can best support a patient's access request by providing objective evidence that they have a **permanent** impairment that results in substantially **reduced functional capacity**:

1. Provide sufficient evidence to validate the diagnosis of an impairment, e.g. attach a letter of diagnosis.
2. Detail the patient's treatment history, past and present, so it is apparent that the impairment has not been, and is unlikely to be, substantially alleviated by all conventional, available treatments.
3. Provide evidence of the impairment's functional impact. For each affected functional domain (one or more), outline the activity limitations the person experiences every day as a result of their disability and the supports they would benefit from.
4. Don't forget to provide evidence of how the impairment has affected the patient's ability to participate in school/study, work or the wider community (to clearly demonstrate its social or economic impact).
5. Leverage existing evidence as much as possible. This may include reports/assessments from relevant treating specialists and allied health professionals, assessments from relevant government departments (disability, health, education, housing, justice), statements from family members, carers, support workers (or self-report), and/or case notes from a service provider.



Case in point

Ram's life-changing journey

Ram is five years old. He was born premature at 25 weeks and experienced a grade four intraocular haemorrhage. As a result, he has mild cerebral palsy with weakness affecting his left side.

After assessment by an early childhood partner, Ram and his parents applied for NDIS access. Through the Scheme, Ram receives funding for speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and assistive equipment. This includes renting a modified bicycle to help Ram coordinate movement on both sides of his body ("I like to ride my bike outside with my sister, pedalling really fast!").

With the help of these supports, Ram has met many of the goals his parents hoped he would achieve. He is now able to use both hands and legs, walk, run, speak and read. He is also doing well at school. His mother describes him as 'a different boy'.



Making the NDIS more accessible for health professionals

NEW resources now available for GPs

CPD Activity: 'Paving the path to access: Helping patients understand and navigate access to the NDIS'

Learn to identify eligible patients who would benefit from NDIS support and compose or collate evidence to support their access request. This one-hour online module (3 CPD points) is suitable for GPs, practice nurses and allied health professionals.

Other helpful resources for health professionals

A number of new resources have been developed for GPs, by GPs. These include a 6-point checklist to help you assess a patient's suitability for the NDIS, a guide to the professionals that can help you support patients applying for NDIS access, and answers to the questions we get asked the most by health professionals.




Visit [ndis.gov.au/gps-and-health-professionals](https://www.ndis.gov.au/gps-and-health-professionals) to access these resources. Alternatively, to request a digital resource folder you can keep handy on your desktop, email marketing@ndis.gov.au.

Committed to a better NDIS for all

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we invite your feedback on the available resources and what other information/tools you would find valuable. Please email community.engagement@ndis.gov.au. We appreciate your input into making the NDIS more accessible for more Australians.


For more information about the NDIS please contact:

National Disability Insurance Agency


-  Telephone 1800 800 110
-  Find us on Facebook/NDISAus
-  Follow us on Twitter @NDIS

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

For people who need help with English

 TIS: 131 450

For people who are Deaf or hard of hearing

-  TTY: 1800 555 677
-  For Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727
-  Internet relay: National Relay Service relayservice.gov.au

For easy reference, record the details of your closest Local Area Coordinator and Early Childhood Partner here (find at [ndis.gov.au/contact/locations](https://www.ndis.gov.au/contact/locations)):