

Support coordinator information pack

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Introduction

The NDIA has designed and built a new NDIS computer system to improve how we work together with participants and providers. Our new computer system will be supported by new my NDIS provider and participant portals.

Through the design and build of the new computer system and portals, we have made it a priority to minimise impacts to providers. If we didn't need to change something, we haven't. Our improvements are designed to:

- Provide more efficient systems and processes.
- Reduce administration for providers while creating opportunities for business growth.
- Give providers more time for meaningful connections with participants.

We tested our new computer system and improved ways of working in Tasmania between November 2022 and March 2023. We continue to use our new computer system in Tasmania while we prepare to introduce it to the rest of Australia.

From the Tasmania test, we learnt that providers wanted to see more resources to help them change the way they do their work or adjust their systems and processes. Providers told us these should be separate resources for the kind of work they do, for example, plan managers, support coordinators and general providers.

This guide contains useful information and links to more resources to help registered and unregistered support coordinators learn about the improvements we've made. It also provides information on what they need to do to prepare for the introduction of our new computer system and ways of working when rolled out to the rest of Australia.

While we'll continue to use our new computer system in Tasmania, our aim is to start using it nationally by the end of 2023.

Providers can learn more about [our evaluation of the NDIS test in Tasmania](#) and find more resources on our [website](#).

What's staying the same?

Our new computer system and improved ways of working don't change the NDIS rules, the rules for support coordination, or the work support coordinators and participants do together. As is the case now, support coordination funding is included in NDIS plans as a time limited support that may reduce over time as participants become more comfortable and confident using their NDIS plan.

Participants will continue to choose the support coordinator they want to work with and will need to give their consent for their provider to see their plan.

Support coordinators will help participants make the most of their plan by:

- Helping build a participant's capacity and capability to understand their plan, navigate the NDIS and make their own decisions.
- Brokering supports and services in line with participant wishes and their plan budget.
- Monitoring plan budgets, value for money and the effectiveness of the supports.
- Providing regular progress reports, letting the NDIA know if the participant's plan is meeting their needs or it needs to be changed.

What's changed?

Support coordinators will need to:

- Use the new provider portal to accept or decline a request for service.
- Use the new templates for their progress reports.
- Submit progress reports in the new my NDIS provider portal.
- Support coordinators who are not registered providers with the NDIS Commission will need to create an on-system account with the NDIA to make sure they can receive requests for service.

Tools and resources for support coordinators

Resources to help support coordinators get ready for our new computer system and ways of working can be found on our [website](#). They include:

- A provider information pack.
- A checklist to help get ready.
- Quick reference guides for day one.
- Portal step by step guide.

Request for service: choosing a support coordinator

Participants will continue to choose their preferred support coordination provider.

If a participant has support coordination services in their plan, they need to tell us who their preferred provider is so we can place a request for these services in the new my NDIS provider portal. We call this process a request for service.

Providers will receive a notification in the portal when they have a new request for service to action.

The request for service process will occur for all new and existing participants with support coordination funding in their plan if the participant:

- Is using support coordination services for the first time.
- Wants to change the provider they have.
- Wants to keep working with the same provider.

We'll send a request for service to the provider the participant has chosen.

This means providers who expect to continue working with a participant on their new plan when it changes over to our new computer system will still receive a request for service.

Participants can tell us who their preferred support coordination provider is at any time. For example in their plan approval meeting, their plan implementation meeting, or by getting in touch with the National Contact Centre.

Accepting a request for service

Providers will get a notification from us when they receive a request for service. Providers will have 4 days to accept or reject the request in the new my NDIS provider portal. After 4 days, the request will be shared with another provider.

After a request for service has been submitted to the my NDIS provider portal, a status will show for each provider in the list. These are:

- **Referred.** The provider is within their 4 days to consider the request for service.
- **Queued.** The provider will receive the request for service if the provider before them does not respond within 4 days, or if that provider rejected the request for service.
- **Cancelled.** The provider has been removed from the list, so they will not receive a request for service.
- **Accepted.** The provider has accepted the request for service and will provide the service to the participant.
- **Rejected.** The provider has rejected the request for service.

When a provider accepts the request for service, their relationship with the participant will be active in our new computer system. Accepting the request means the provider:

- Agrees to meet the NDIA reporting requirements for their service.
- Will be recorded on the participant's plan as "My Providers" (formerly referred to as participant-endorsed providers in the Tasmania test)".
- Will be able to submit payment claims in the my NDIS provider portal.

Support coordinators should regularly log in to their my NDIS provider portal to make sure they are aware of new requests for service.

New reporting templates

When a support coordinator accepts a request for service, they agree to meet the NDIA reporting requirements.

We developed the reporting templates to help standardise provider reports and capture consistent information to help NDIA planners and NDIS partners prepare for check-ins and plan reassessments with participants.

The reporting templates have been designed through feedback from users and we expect them to take about the same amount of time to complete as current reporting. The new reporting templates will make it easier for support coordinators to:

- Share relevant and consistent information with the NDIA.
- Meet the reporting requirements outlined in the request for service.

The templates ask providers for information about:

- The participant's support needs and situation.
- The supports the participant is receiving.
- The participant's progress in implementing their plan to pursue their goals.

Providers should complete the reporting template through discussions with the participant and the people who support them, making sure participants are aware of the detail included.

Support coordinators will be asked to submit reports across the life of a participant's plan, generally at a set period. The timing of reports may change, depending on the participant's circumstances and when their next plan reassessment is due.

Providers will receive a notification in the portal when they have a report due.

Support coordinators should regularly log in to their my NDIS provider portal to track due dates for the reports. Reports can be submitted as attachments in the my NDIS provider portal. Find the implementation and progress report templates on our [website](#).

Viewing participant plans

The rules and the way we manage consent and share participant information does not change with the introduction of our new computer system.

Participants who are 18 years and older can provide consent for the NDIA to collect and share information about them with another person or organisation, like a provider, even if:

- We have sent a request for service to a support coordination provider on behalf of a participant; or
- A support coordination provider is recorded as a participant-endorsed provider on a plan.

We will ask the participant to confirm their consent for their support coordinator to see their plan.

- When a participant gives consent, support coordinators can use the my NDIS provider portal to see:
- Details like plan duration, the participant's preferred name, their NDIS number, date of birth, gender and if an interpreter is required.
- The participant's "about me" statement, goals, budget, funded supports, informal, community and mainstream supports, nominee details and relationship type.
- The participant's contact details and nominee details, if applicable.
- The participant's budget information.

Watch our video on how to view participant plan and budget information.

Claims and payments

Support coordinators should use the my place provider portal to make payment claims.

When a support coordinator accepts a request for service, they become "My Providers" (formerly referred to as participant-endorsed providers in the Tasmania test) for the participant's plan. Participant-endorsed provider claims are generally paid within 2 to 3 days of the claim being lodged.

Support coordinators who submit claims before they receive or accept a request for service may see an error message in the myplace provider portal. This error message indicates they are not the recorded support coordinator or recovery coach for that period.

Providers who receive this message are encouraged to lodge a payment enquiry ticket in the myplace provider portal.

It's important to remember the payment error message will only apply to claims submitted before a request for service is accepted. Once accepted, providers can submit claims in the usual way.

Unregistered support coordinators

Unregistered support coordinators will also need to access the my NDIS provider portal to accept requests for service and submit reports for participants. To do this unregistered support coordinators need to create a PRODA account and contact the NDIA to link to the new my NDIS portal.

Learn more

Support coordinators can visit our [website](#) to learn more and find tools and resources to help them prepare for our new computer system and portal.

For assistance or feedback, providers can email provider.support@ndis.gov.au