



ndis

**NDIS First Nations Strategy
2025–30 Summary**

The First Nations Strategy

The goal of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) First Nations Strategy (the strategy) is to ensure that the NDIS delivers and continues to create improved outcomes in the lives of First Nations people with disability.

The strategy will serve as a roadmap to guide the actions of the NDIA over the next 5 years, from 2025 to 2030, to improve NDIS access and participation for First Nations people with disability.

The strategy embeds the knowledge, experiences and aspirations of First Nations people and reflects First Nations concepts of disability and wellbeing. This includes how priorities are expressed and how success and outcomes are measured.

The strategy process

The strategy was co-developed by the NDIA and the NDIA First Nations Strategy Working Group, which comprised First Nations NDIS participants, carers, providers, partners, peak bodies, non-government organisations and academics.

The former NDIA First Nations Advisory Council also played an important role in shaping the strategy. The mix of voices helped to make the strategy better for everyone involved in the NDIS.

The strategy aligns with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

This strategy responds to First Nations voices by committing the NDIA to improve the NDIS through partnership, co-design and power sharing with First Nations people. The strategy has 4 strategic priorities. Each strategic priority explains what needs to change, why it is important and how we will know the change is happening.

Priority areas for change

The strategy has 4 priority areas for change:

- **Strategic priority 1:** Fair and equitable access and support – this focuses on the experiences of First Nations people with disability, their families, communities and advocates, as they apply for the NDIS, navigate the NDIS pathway and choose service providers and programs.
- **Strategic priority 2:** NDIS ‘our way’ – transformation for power-sharing – this is about the decisions the NDIA takes about policy, programs and quality standards, and the way the NDIA co-designs and funds culturally safe and effective services for First Nations participants.
- **Strategic priority 3:** Working together well within and across sectors – this focuses on better systems within the NDIS, and stronger collaboration between services and sectors at the national, regional and local levels that support a smoother NDIS journey for First Nations participants.
- **Strategic priority 4:** Gathering, sharing and revisiting knowledge about meaningful change – this is about how the NDIA is accountable for tracking change over time in the experiences of and outcomes for First Nations participants, their families, communities and advocates, and then using the learnings for ongoing improvement.

NDIA commitments to ways of working

This NDIS First Nations Strategy is built upon 9 core values that reflect First Nations ways of knowing, being and doing. These values form the 9 key commitments that the NDIA must honour to achieve the goal of the strategy. These 9 commitments are:

- Using straightforward language – ‘straight talk’
- Taking a strengths-based approach
- Valuing First Nations and community-centred ways
- Respecting the self-determination and agency of First Nations people – ‘our mob, our way’
- Creating cultural safety
- Keeping the conversation going – ‘keep yarning’ and acting on what we learn
- Being flexible and collaborative
- Creating high quality and sustainable programs and services
- Achieving fairness through equity for First Nations people

How we will know the strategy is working

We will know that the strategy is working if First Nations people with disability:

- have fair and equitable pathways into the NDIS in all geographic locations, including on Country
- are actively involved in shaping and making the decisions about how policies, programs and practices ensure that First Nations people with disability experience holistic, culturally safe and effective care at all levels of the NDIS
- report that there is effective collaboration between all services, systems and sectors at the national, regional and local levels
- are involved in the co-design of monitoring, evaluation and data sharing activities. The knowledge gathered reflects their experiences of both what is changing in a meaningful and acceptable way, and what is not changing.

Next steps

The NDIA will co-design a First Nations Strategy Implementation Plan during 2025. We will do this in partnership with First Nations participants and the broader First Nations disability community, including families, carers, providers, partners, peak bodies and government and non-government organisations. We acknowledge that different communities have different needs. We want to embed the NDIA commitments enshrined in this strategy of self-determination and community-centred ways to improve the NDIS for First Nations people with disability.

Where to find more

The full version of the NDIS First Nations Strategy 2025-30 including an Easy Read, on the NDIS website: [First Nations Strategy | NDIS](#).

Artwork acknowledgement

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National Disability Insurance Agency

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