

Applying to the NDIS

This factsheet explains:

- how to apply to the NDIS
- eligibility requirements
- information you'll need to support your application
- what happens after you apply.

How to apply

If you want to apply to the NDIS, connecting with a partner is a good first step. If you're aged 9 and older it's best to contact your [local area coordinator](#). For children younger than 9, parents and carers can contact an [early childhood partner](#). They will help you understand the eligibility requirements, and what evidence and information you need to give us.

Partners can help you apply to the NDIS by submitting the application on your behalf. This means you don't need to complete the NDIS Access Request Form yourself.

You can find a local area coordinator or early childhood partner near you on our [office location](#) page on the NDIS website.

If you live in an area where there are no partners, or if you don't want to meet with them, you can [contact the NDIA directly](#). We might still ask you to meet with a partner to confirm your identity. First Nations people can call our First Nations Connect service on **1800 411 640**, for a culturally respectful and tailored experience.

Learn more about [Applying to the NDIS](#).

To get started, visit the [office location](#) page on the NDIS website or call us on **1800 800 110**.

We'll call the person who helps you apply your **my NDIS contact**. They'll keep supporting you as you interact with the NDIS.

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible for the NDIS, you'll need to meet the requirements for:

- **age:** you need to be younger than 65 on the day you apply
- **residence:** you need to live in Australia, and be an Australian citizen, permanent resident, or hold a special category visa that is a protected special category visa.
- **disability or early intervention:** you may be eligible under the disability requirements if you have one or more impairments that are or are likely to be permanent and this substantially impacts your ability to undertake daily life activities as a whole. And you'll likely need NDIS supports for your lifetime.

You may be eligible under the early intervention requirements if you have one or more impairments that are permanent or likely to be permanent. Or are a child younger than 6 with developmental delay. And [NDIS supports](#) are likely to benefit you by reducing your need for supports in the future.

You can use the [eligibility checklist](#) on the NDIS website to see if you might be eligible. Find out more about the age, residence, disability and early intervention requirements and evidence you need, in [Our Guideline - Applying to the NDIS](#).

Information to support your application

If you apply to the NDIS, we'll need to confirm your identity.

To decide if you're eligible for the NDIS, we need evidence that shows you meet the requirements for:

- age
- residence
- disability or early intervention.

Evidence of your identity, age and residence

The [Evidence of identity factsheet \(DOCX 298KB\)](#) shows what information we need to confirm your identity.

In most cases, we can use your identity documents to check age and residence. For example, to:

- check your age, we can use your birth certificate, passport, driver's license, or proof of age card.
- check you're an Australian citizen or permanent resident, we can use your Australian birth certificate, Australian citizenship or naturalisation certificate, or a passport or travel document including a valid visa.
- check you live in Australia, you can give us consent to check your Centrelink record. If you don't give us consent, we'll need to ask some other questions to make sure you live in Australia.
- show you meet the age and residence requirements you can give us consent to check your Centrelink record. We'll only use this to check your age and residence.

If you don't have the identity documents we need, let us know. We'll talk with you about your situation and work out the best way to support you.

Find out more information about [confirming your identity](#).

Evidence of your impairments and functional capacity

We need evidence about the impact of your impairments on your daily life, including on your ability to move around, communicate, socialise, learn, look after yourself and organise your life.

If you don't have any written evidence, you'll need to contact your treating professional. Your treating professional should be the most appropriate person to give evidence about your impairments and have treated you for a significant time.

Who can provide evidence of your impairments?

Evidence of your impairments should come from a professional who has treated you for at least 6 months. For example, this might be your GP, pediatrician, or neurologist.

The type of evidence we need, and the best person to share it, will depend on your impairments. You can use our guide for [types of disability evidence](#) on the NDIS website.

We have [information for GPs and health professionals](#) on the NDIS website that can help your treating professionals to give good evidence.

Your **my NDIS contact** can help you understand [what evidence you'll need and support you to gather it](#).

For children younger than 6 with developmental delay, your early childhood partner can give evidence. Find out more about [Early connections](#).

What happens after you apply?

Once you give us a complete application, we'll decide if you're eligible or ask for more information to help us decide if you're eligible for the NDIS. We'll make our decision within 90 days. We'll contact you to let you know if you're eligible, how we made our decision, and any next steps.

What happens if we decide you're eligible?

If you're eligible, you'll become an NDIS participant. We'll send you a letter to let you know:

- you're eligible and the date you became eligible
- if you met the requirements for disability, early intervention, or both
- the next steps to create your NDIS plan.

Your letter will also include your **impairment categories information**. This tells you the impairment categories that cover the impairments that you meet the requirements for disability, early intervention or both. Impairment categories are the way we group together different types of impairments. This helps us understand how your disability impacts your everyday life.

The categories are:

- intellectual
- cognitive
- neurological
- sensory

- physical
- impairments relating to a psychosocial disability.

We decide the impairment categories using the information and evidence of disability and resulting impairment you give us.

The impairment categories don't apply to children younger than 6 who meet the eligibility requirements due to developmental delay only. Children eligible under the early intervention requirements for developmental delay will instead have **developmental delay** listed in their letter.

We'll then start making your plan within 21 days.

You'll then receive a plan which sets out your [NDIS supports](#). NDIS supports are the services, items, and equipment that can be funded by the NDIS. Find out more about [creating your plan](#) and [reasonable and necessary supports](#).

If you meet the early intervention requirements, your support needs are more likely to change, and you may only need NDIS supports for a short time. We'll regularly check your eligibility when we reassess your plan, and at other times too.

If you meet the disability requirements, it's likely you'll need NDIS supports for your lifetime.

If at any time your NDIS support needs or situation changes, we may need to check your NDIS eligibility. We'll talk with you when this happens and explain what this means for you.

What happens if you're not eligible?

If you've been assessed as not eligible, you can't become an NDIS participant. We'll explain why and answer any questions you might have. We'll also tell you your review rights. Find out more about [reviewing our decisions](#).

We can help you even if you aren't eligible for the NDIS. If you want, we can offer community connections or early connections. If your situation changes or you get new information, you can apply again in the future.

Learn more in Our Guidelines:

- [Community connections](#)
- [Early connections](#)
- [Applying to the NDIS](#).

National Disability Insurance Scheme

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

Telephone 1800 800 110

Webchat [Contact](#)

Follow us on our social channels

[Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#)

For people who need help with English

TIS: 131 450

For people who are deaf or hard of hearing

TTY: 1800 555 677

Voice relay: 1800 555 727

National Relay Service: accesshub.gov.au

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