

Accessing the NDIS

Information you need to know to access the NDIS

Availability in your area

The NDIS is being introduced progressively around Australia from 1 July 2016. To participate in the NDIS right now, you must live in an area where the NDIS is currently available. In some of these areas, you also need to be a certain age.



You may meet the access requirements up to six months prior to the NDIS rolling out in your area.

How people will join the NDIS has been agreed by Commonwealth and State / Territory governments.

If you already receive supports from a State or Territory government disability program, you will receive a letter and a phone call from an NDIS representative when it is time to transition to the NDIS.

Until you have transitioned to the NDIS and have an NDIS plan, your existing supports and services will continue.

Becoming a participant

To become an NDIS participant you will need to meet the age, residency and disability or early intervention access requirements. In some States and Territories people currently receiving supports will be moving to the NDIS first.



To see if you might meet the access requirements, use the NDIS Access Checklist on the website.

Evidence of your disability





To allow the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to determine whether you meet the disability or early intervention access requirements, you may need to provide us with evidence of your disability. This includes information on what your disability is, how long it will last and its impact on your life.

For some people already receiving supports from State and Territory disability programs, evidence of your disability may not be needed. This is because some State and Territory programs have the same eligibility criteria as the NDIS.



Can I access the NDIS?


To become an NDIS participant you must:

-  Have a permanent impairment that significantly affects your ability to take part in everyday activities, or have a developmental delay;
-  Be aged less than 65 when you first apply to enter the NDIS and meet additional age requirements if you live in SA or TAS;
-  Live in Australia in an NDIS area on a specified date;
-  Be an Australian citizen or hold a permanent visa or a Protected Special Category visa.

Note: If some of the above requirements are not met but you live in a NSW NDIS area that is phasing and you are under 65 years of age, you may still meet the access requirements if you are in an existing qualifying program. Contact us for more information.

Contact us

National Disability Insurance Agency


 Telephone 1800 800 110

For people with hearing or speech loss

 TTY: 1800 555 677

 Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727

For people who need help with English

 TIS: 131 450