

The National Disability Insurance Scheme

Information for young people in care

What is the NDIS?

The NDIS funds reasonable and necessary support to help young people with disability to reach their goals in a range of areas.

The NDIS can help you access services and support in your communities and can provide funding for disability supports like therapies, wheelchairs, or communication devices.

If you are eligible, you will become an NDIS participant and your funding will be detailed in an NDIS plan. You can use this funding to purchase the support and services as outlined in your plan.

If you are not eligible for the NDIS, Child Safety will continue to meet your disability support needs through your case plan.

Accessing the NDIS

The first step involves gathering evidence about your disability support needs and making an NDIS access request. Your Child Safety Officer (CSO) will work with you and your family, carer, residential care worker or a support person you nominate to gather the documents needed and submit an access request form.

The role of the 'Child Representative'

NDIS participants under 18 need to be represented by their parent or guardian*.

When Child Safety is your guardian under a child protection order, we will be your representative.

When there is a child protection order granting custody to Child Safety, but we are not your guardian, we will still work with you and your parents or guardians and support you through all stages of the NDIS process.

When another person is your guardian, that person will be your representative.

Being your representative involves:

- requesting access to the NDIS for you and providing relevant information to support your request
- acting as a contact person on your behalf for the NDIS
- involving you, and representing you, in decisions about the planning process, including who takes part.

*Can I represent myself?

The *NDIS Act 2013* allows for a young person under 18 to represent yourself with the NDIS in certain circumstances.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NDIA must decide that you are capable of making your own decisions and that certain requirements of the Act should not apply to you.

If you want to represent yourself with the NDIS, discuss this with your CSO. For example, you may wish to become your own NDIS representative as part of your Transition to Adulthood plan.

Developing your NDIS plan

Once your access to the NDIS is confirmed, the next step is to develop your NDIS plan. This happens at a meeting with an NDIA planner, you, your representative and other support people.

Your involvement in your NDIS plan

You are the most important person when it comes to your NDIS plan.

You can be involved a little or a lot in:

- communicating your needs, goals and wishes in preparation for NDIS planning, including your cultural needs and goals

- attending your planning meeting alongside your representative and other support people
- choosing your support providers
- reviewing your plan to make sure it continues to work for you.

Implementing your NDIS plan

Once your plan is developed it's time to put it into action. Implementing your plan involves:

- understanding the plan and the support budgets within it
- choosing service providers and setting up service agreements with them
- sourcing quotes for any aids and equipment approved in the plan.

Practical support is available to help you, your representative and support people to implement your NDIS plan.

During development of your plan, your representative can request funding for support coordination. A Support Coordinator will help by researching suitable providers and managing the agreements with them.

If you are Aboriginal or a Torres Strait Islander, an independent person may be involved to support decision making, where appropriate, regarding NDIS access, NDIS planning and sourcing of providers.

If you are from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, and the Child Safety is your Child Representative for the NDIS, we will engage support you with an interpreter if required throughout the four stages of the NDIS process.

Once implemented, your NDIS plan is then discussed and monitored through case plan reviews and placement meetings.

What supports will the NDIS fund?

The NDIS will fund reasonable and necessary supports that are specific to your disability and additional to the needs of young people of similar ages in similar care arrangements. These supports may include:

- skill development—for example learning how to cook or to be safe on public transport
- support provided by someone other than your usual carers (e.g. vacation care)
- therapies, like physiotherapy or speech therapy
- aids and equipment
- training programs to help the people in your life understand you and care for you
- support coordination.

Child Safety aims to use providers who are registered with the NDIA to make sure they are safe and quality providers.

Reviewing your NDIS plan

All plans have an end date when they need to be reviewed but can also be reviewed if you:

- you have a change of circumstance (e.g. changed living arrangements)
- it no longer meets your disability support needs

Your Child Safety Officer (CSO) will work with you and your family, carer, residential care worker to request a plan review with the NDIS.

More information

- [NDIS information for young people in care](#)
- [NDIS website](#)