About the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing disability support for people with disability, their families and carers.

The NDIS rolled out in Queensland between July 2016 and June 2019, and is now live across the state.

Benefits for families

The NDIS helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in making sure they receive support for their family members who have a disability.

Parents with disability may also receive support from the NDIS that will help them to care for their children and young people.

Access to the NDIS for children aged 0-6

NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) Partners work with children **aged 0-6 years**.

The ECEI Partner is the first point-of-contact for the NDIS for children aged 0-6 with emerging disability or developmental delay.

The ECEI Partner may:

* make connections for the child and family with relevant disability supports in their area
* provide short-term early intervention therapy support
* assist the family request NDIS access and develop their NDIS plan if longer-term support is needed.

Access to the NDIS for children and adults aged 7+

NDIS Local Area Coordinator Partners support **children aged 7+, young people and adults** to access the NDIS.

In general, accessing the NDIS involves:

1. gathering eligibility evidence and completing an Access Request Form
2. working with the Local Area Coordinator or an NDIA planner to develop an NDIS plan.

NDIS plans and support

NDIS plans are usually developed through a face-to-face meeting with a Local Area Coordinator or NDIS Planner.

NDIS plans include funding for supports to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to thrive and to help them with everyday activities.

NDIS-funded supports may include:

* skills and capacity building
* supports to enable sustainable caring arrangements (e.g. vacation care)
* therapy and behaviour support (e.g. speech/physiotherapy)
* aids and equipment, including mobility equipment and consumables (e.g. wheelchairs, hearing aids)
* home modifications and transport to get out and about
* disability-related training for parents/carers
* support coordination (support coordinators are service providers who provide intensive support to help people implement their NDIS plans).

How FWS can help

Family Wellbeing Services can support families by helping them navigate the NDIS process. This may include:

**NDIS access**

* Helping people check their NDIS eligibility using the access checklist located at: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis/am-i-eligible>
* Supporting families to connect with an ECEI Partner for children 0-6.
* Supporting families to connect with an NDIS Local Area Coordinator or NDIS office about access for a child 7+, young person or an adult.

**NDIS planning**

* Helping families to consider the support needs of the person with disability ahead of their NDIS planning meeting.
* Attending an NDIS planning meeting if requested by a family.

**Once the person has an NDIS plan**

* Helping families connect with a Local Area Coordinator or engage a Support Coordinator (if funded within the plan) to set up services using NDIS plan funding.

**Where there has been a change in circumstances or the family is in crisis**

* Helping a family connect with a Local Area Coordinator or their Support Coordinator to rearrange the supports within their plan to respond to their immediate needs.
* Supporting a family to make a request to the NDIS for a plan review or review of a decision if required – this may include connecting the family to a National Disability Advocacy Program provider (see below).

Contacts

**National Disability Insurance Scheme:**

* 1800 800 110 or [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)

**Early Childhood Early Intervention Partners**

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| **Location** | **Provider** | **Phone** |
| Cairns | Mission Australia | 1800 860 555 |
| Townsville | UnitingCare Community | 4775 9124 |
| Mackay | UnitingCare Community | 4944 2331 |
| Emerald | BUSHkids | 4913 1090 |
| Rockhampton | BUSHkids | 4994 2120 |
| Gladstone | BUSHkids | 4904 5335 |
| Bundaberg | BUSHkids | 4111 1655 |
| Maryborough/Sth Burnett | BUSHkids | 4904 5335 |
| Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie | BUSHkids | 5406 0708 |
| Moreton Bay inc Strathpine / Caboolture | The Benevolent Society | 1300 003 234 |

**ECEI Partners cont.**

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| **Location** | **Provider** | **Phone** |
| Gold Coast/Hinterland | UnitingCare Community | 0427 084 280 |
| Ipswich | EACH | 1300 003 224 |
| Toowoomba | UnitingCare Community | 4688 3949 |
| Brisbane/Logan | The Benevolent Society | 1300 003 234 |

**Local Area Coordinator Partners**

|  |  |  |
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| **Location** | **Provider** | **Phone** |
| Cairns | Mission Australia | 1800 860555 |
| Townsville and Mackay | Feros Care | 1300 986970 |
| Rockhampton, Gladstone and Emerald | Carers Queensland | 4994 1600 |
| Bundaberg | Indigenous Wellness Centre | 1300 492492 |
| Maryborough /South Burnett | APM | 1800 276276 |
| Sunshine Coast, Noosa, Gympie | Carers Queensland | 1800 242636 |
| Moreton Bay inc Strathpine / Caboolture | Carers Queensland | 1800 242636 |
| Ipswich | Carers Queensland | 3454 0500 |
| Toowoomba | Carers Queensland | 4646 2800 |
| Brisbane/Logan/  Redlands and Gold Coast | Carers Queensland | 1800 242636 |

**National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP)**

NDAP organisations are funded by the Commonwealth Government to provide disability advocacy services in Queensland.

<https://disabilityadvocacyfinder.dss.gov.au/disability/ndap/>

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| **NDAP provider** | **NDAP phone** |
| Independent Advocacy in the Tropics Inc. | 1800 887 688 |
| People With Disability Australia Inc. | 1800 422 015 |
| Queensland Advocacy Inc. | 1300 130 582 |
| Rights In Action Inc. (FNQ) | 4031 7377 |
| Speaking Up For You (SUFY) | 3255 1244 |
| Sunshine Coast Citizen Advocacy Programme Inc. | 5442 2524 |

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland**

* 1800 718 969 or [www.atsidnq.com.au](http://www.atsidnq.com.au)