

The National Disability Insurance Scheme

Information for parents of children and young people in care

What is the NDIS?

The NDIS funds reasonable and necessary support to help children with disability or developmental delay reach their goals in a range of areas.

The NDIS helps eligible children and their families access services and support in their communities and can provide funding for disability supports like early childhood intervention therapies, wheelchairs or communication devices.

The NDIS may also fund supports to increase the capacity for families and carers to care for their children and young people for example, vacation care and respite.

Accessing NDIS support

The role of the 'Child's Representative'

The NDIS Act 2013 requires that participants under 18 be represented by a parent or guardian. This person is known as the 'Child Representative'.

Where Child Safety is your child's guardian under a child protection order, Child Safety will be the Child's Representative for your child.

When there is a child protection order granting custody to Child Safety, but not guardianship, you will be the Child's Representative and Child Safety will work with you and support you through the NDIS process.

Being the Child's Representative for your child involves:

- providing consent for your child or young person to access the NDIS or the Early Childhood Approach (ECA) pathway
- working with your child's Local Area Coordinator to gather eligibility evidence to support an NDIS access request
- acting as the contact point for your child or young person for the NDIS

- making decisions about the planning process, including what to ask for and who takes part in meetings
- signing agreements with service providers for supports to be delivered to your child or young person under their NDIS plan.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people

When Child Safety is the Child's Representative for the NDIS, an independent person can be involved to support you, your child and the family with NDIS decision making.

Child Safety will work with your family on accessing suitable NDIS support for your child or young person to connect with their community and culture, where possible.

Access to the NDIS for children under 9

An Early Childhood Approach (ECA) Partner is the first point of contact with the NDIS for children aged 0-9 with a disability or developmental delay.

To access the ECA pathway, the Child Representative makes contact with the local ECA Partner where the child currently lives.

The ECA Partner can assist with:

- providing information about mainstream supports and services for a child
- making connections for your child with relevant services in their area like their community health centre or local playgroup
- providing short-term early intervention therapy support
- NDIS access if longer-term support is needed
- coordinate a combination of these options.

Access to the NDIS for children aged 9+ and adults

In general, accessing the NDIS for children aged 9+ involves:

- gathering eligibility evidence and completing an access request form
- working with an NDIA planner to develop the NDIS plan.

NDIS plans and support

NDIS plans are developed through a meeting with an NDIS Planner, the child or young person, the Child's Representative, Child Safety and other support people.

NDIS funded supports may include:

- skills and capacity building
- supports to enable sustainable caring arrangements (e.g. vacation care)
- therapy and behaviour support
- 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 - service providers who help people implement their plans.

Developing your child's NDIS plan

Children and young people are more likely to receive an NDIS plan that meets their needs when all the relevant information is available at their NDIS planning meeting.

You can support this process by providing information about how your child's disability or developmental delay impacts on their ability to:

- undertake self-care tasks (e.g. showering, dressing, eating meals, getting ready to leave the house)
- socially interact with others (e.g. communication and relationships)

- learn
- move around (mobility)
- self-manage (e.g. behaviour, emotions).

Further information needed:

- the disability and mainstream supports and services your child has previously received and those you feel are missing, including cultural connections;
- your child's goals and aspirations;
- any disability-specific supports that would help you and your child's family and carers to better understand your child's needs.

Implementing your child's NDIS plan

During development of an NDIS plan, the Child's Representative can request funding for support coordination. The support coordinator will be the first provider engaged as part of the plan.

The support coordinator will help with choosing and connecting with mainstream, community and NDIS-registered support services.

Once implemented, your child's NDIS plan will be discussed and monitored through Child Safety case plans reviews and placement meetings.

Reviewing your child's NDIS plan

Your child or young person's plan can be reassessed or reviewed for a number of reasons, which include:

- the child has had a change of circumstance (e.g. changed living arrangements)
- the plan does not meet the child's increased disability needs and there is new evidence to support this
- the plan is due to expire

Further information

- [NDIS website](#)