

Information about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Factsheet 4 for long-term guardians and permanent guardians

What is the NDIS?

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

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

Benefits of the NDIS

The NDIS has a flexible, individual approach that provides support to children and young people early in their life so they can achieve better outcomes later on.

It provides certainty for those who become participants in the scheme that they will have access to support to meet their changing needs and goals over a lifetime.

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's Representative'.

The Child's Representative is responsible for facilitating a child or young person's access to the NDIS.

When a child has a long-term guardian or a permanent guardian, the guardian will be the Child's Representative.

Being a Child's Representative for the NDIS involves:

- providing consent for the child or young person to access the NDIS or an Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) service
- coordinating collection of eligibility evidence to support an NDIS access request

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

Access to the NDIS for children aged 0-6

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

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

To access ECEI, the Child's Representative makes contact with the ECEI provider for the area where the child currently lives and completes an application.

The ECEI Partner can assist with:

- 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
- working with the Child's Representative to seek NDIS access and develop the child's NDIS plan if longer-term support is needed.

Access for children and young people 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:

- gathering eligibility evidence and making an Access Request
- working with an NDIA planner or Local Area Coordinator 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, the child or young person, the Child's Representative and other support people where appropriate.

Child Safety will not have a role in the child's NDIS planning process unless appropriate or requested by the Child's Representative.

NDIS plans include reasonable and necessary supports that are specific to the child or young person's disability or developmental delay and can help them reach their goals.

NDIS-funded supports may include:

- skills and capacity building
- supports to enable sustainable caring arrangements (e.g. respite, outside school hours 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).

Developing the 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 contributing information about how the child's disability or developmental delay impacts on areas such as:

- how the child's disability or developmental delay affects their:
 - ability to undertake the tasks of daily living (e.g. showering, dressing, eating meals, getting ready to leave the house)
 - communication
 - relationships
 - behaviour.

- the supports and services the child has previously received and those you feel are missing
- the child's goals and aspirations
- any disability-specific supports that would help you and the child's family and care-givers to better understand the child's needs.

Implementing the 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 under the plan and will help with choosing and connecting with mainstream, community and NDIS-registered support services.

If a support coordinator has not been funded, the Local Area Coordinator will help the Child's Representative implement the NDIS plan.

Child Safety may provide a supporting role if requested by the Child's Representative.

Managing the child's NDIS plan

The Child's Representative has the authority to choose how the child's plan funding will be managed. Each section of the plan can be managed by NDIA (known as 'agency managed'), managed by a Plan Manager, or be 'self-managed'.

For plans that are agency-managed, only NDIS-registered service providers who meet quality and safeguarding standards can be engaged to deliver services.

Payments and allowances

If you receive an allowance from Child Safety in addition to the fortnightly caring allowance, this allowance may be reviewed and adjusted accordingly if disability costs previously covered by the allowance are included in the child's NDIS plan.

More information

- www.qld.gov.au/ndis
- www.ndis.gov.au
- www.csyw.qld.gov.au/ndis
- www.qld.gov.au/ndisforcarers