

The **National Disability Insurance Scheme (or NDIS)** is a new way of providing support for Australians with disability, their families and carers. It is a nationwide change to Australia's current state-based systems of support.

The **NDIS** is an individualised person-centred approach to the supports and services that people with a disability may need and want. It's about individual choices and decisions that a person or their family or carers make; involvement in community, education, and employment<sup>1</sup>.

During the period of transition to this new scheme, there may be some confusion about what the **NDIS** will mean for you. This Fact Sheet has been developed to help you navigate the **NDIS** and maintain choice and control over the support and services that you may need.

### About the Scheme

Up until this point, each state in Australia was responsible for the way in which it supported people with a disability and their families or carers and had different ways of doing this.

Under the **NDIS**, there will be a single national scheme, which means regardless of what kind of disability you have or where you live, you will be better able to access existing services and have greater choice and control over the way disability support services are delivered<sup>2</sup> to you.

The **NDIS** helps people with a disability to:

- Access mainstream services and supports
- Access community services and supports
- Maintain informal support arrangements
- Receive reasonable and necessary funded supports

### About the Agency:

The National Disability Insurance Agency (or **NDIA**) is an independent agency that has been established to put the National Disability Insurance Scheme into action.

The **NDIA's** main role is to deliver the **NDIS**. They will do this by providing information that will support people with a disability to access community services and activities.

### Am I eligible?

If you already receive support from a State or Territory government disability program, you will receive a letter and a phone call from an **NDIS** representative to help you transition to the **NDIS**.

Until you have changed over to the NDIS,  
your current supports and services will continue as normal.

1 <http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au/faqs/so-how-is-the-ndis-different/>

2 <http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au/about-ndis/>

You must also:

- Have a permanent impairment that significantly affects your ability to take part in everyday activities, or have a developmental delay
- Be aged under 65 years when you first apply to enter the **NDIS**
- Be an Australian citizen or hold a permanent visa or a Protected Special Category visa.

If you do not meet the [access requirements](#), and you live in a [launch site](#), the **NDIA** may be able to provide you with information about other supports that could be of benefit to you and assist in referring you to these <sup>3</sup>.

To find out when the **NDIS** is coming to your area and the eligibility requirements for your state visit the **NDIS** website: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/what-ndis.html>

### If I am not eligible for the NDIS, can Epilepsy Action Australia still assist me?

Yes. Epilepsy Action Australia will continue to deliver services that increase epilepsy awareness, understanding, knowledge and skills to assist people with epilepsy across Australia.

Epilepsy Action Australia offers a range of services including:

- Information and education for individuals, families, schools, employers, community groups
- Emergency medication training
- Seizure Management Planning
- A range of Self-Management tools
- Assessment of epilepsy related safety needs and equipment
- Peer support opportunities
- Accredited and non-accredited courses

To find out more about our services and how we can assist you, or to request assistance please contact us: **1300 37 45 37** Email: [epilepsy@epilepsy.org.au](mailto:epilepsy@epilepsy.org.au) or visit our website: [www.epilepsy.org.au](http://www.epilepsy.org.au)

### If I am eligible for the NDIS, what's next?

As a participant of the **NDIS**, your first step to accessing funding and support will be the development of a personal plan that reflects your needs and your goals. The plan will start with a conversation with the **NDIA** about what you need and want and can also include input from your family or carers.

For more information about preparing for your Planning Meeting, please see Epilepsy Action Australia's **Your Planning Checklist: Epilepsy and the NDIS**.

### What will be covered by the NDIS?

The **NDIS** will not replace the funding and supports provided by other support systems such as the health and education systems. Where another system is responsible for providing a service the **NDIS** will not fund that support.

For example the health system has responsibility for diagnosis and treatment of health conditions; the education system has the responsibility for funding reasonable adjustments to their school environment and teaching strategies to include students with disabilities; employers have responsibility for creating an accessible environment.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ndis.gov.au/people-disability.html>

# Fact Sheet: Epilepsy and the NDIS

The **NDIS** website has a number of factsheets outlining the 'Mainstream Interface' with other government funding streams. These factsheets provide more detail about what the **NDIS** will and will not fund.

If you are unsure, it is best to ask for all the supports you require at your Planning Meeting and the **NDIS** Planner will help you understand what is and what is not included.

## Support for families and carers

Families and carers are partners in the support of people with a disability and The **NDIA** aims to work with these crucial supports to maintain family wellbeing <sup>4</sup>.

Families and carers may be supported in their caring role under the **NDIS**. In deciding whether to fund or provide a support, the **NDIA** will take into account what is reasonably expected of families, carers, informal networks and the community to provide <sup>5</sup>.

Supports that maintain a carer's health and wellbeing will be considered. This may include participation in a support group or a special interest network. The **NDIA** will be able to assist you with information about support services that are available to you under [other government-funded programs](#).

Carers Australia **NDIS** Check List will help you describe the kind of support you provide as a carer. View here: <http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/storage/checklist-final.pdf>

## Where can I find out more about the NDIS?

The **NDIS** website has lots of information and resources available to help you navigate the **NDIS** and determine how it will work for you. You can access the website here: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/index.html>

You can also call the **NDIS** info line on: 1800 800 110

For more information about Epilepsy Action Australia and the assistance we can provide you, please contact our team on 1300 37 45 37. Email: [epilepsy@epilepsy.org.au](mailto:epilepsy@epilepsy.org.au) or visit our website: [www.epilepsy.org.au](http://www.epilepsy.org.au)

## Glossary:

**Approved plan** – a participant's plan that includes the participant's statement of goals and aspirations and the supports required by the participant to attain their goals informal, mainstream and NDIA-funded as approved by the CEO<sup>6</sup>

**Assistive technology (AT)** – the full range of technological solutions that allow people with disability to be more independent, more connected, and provide opportunities for them to realise their potential as active members of their families, schools, workplaces and communities. Beyond the traditional aids and equipment used by people with disability, including home and vehicle modifications, prosthetics and hearing aids, it includes devices used by people without disabilities (for example, smart phones, tablets and apps) that are offering new ways to form connections and increase participation<sup>7</sup>

**Carer** – someone who provides personal care, support and assistance to a person with disability and who is not contracted as a paid or voluntary worker<sup>8</sup>

4 <http://www.carersaustralia.com.au/ndis-and-carers/support-for-families-and-carers/>

5 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/families-carers/information-families-and-carers.html>

6 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/glossary>

7 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/glossary>

8 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/glossary>

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**Community services** – activities and services such as social, study, sporting or other interests, available from local non-government groups and government entities<sup>9</sup>

**NDIA** – National Disability Insurance Agency<sup>10</sup>

**NDIS** – National Disability Insurance Scheme<sup>11</sup>

**Participant** – a person who is assessed as meeting the NDIS participation criteria under the Act<sup>12</sup>

**Participant's plan** – an approved plan consisting of a participant's statement of goals and aspirations and the reasonable and necessary supports approved for funding<sup>13</sup>

**People with disability** – a person who experiences any or all of the following: impairments (differences/ changes in body function or structure); activity limitations (difficulties in carrying out usual age-appropriate activities); participation restrictions (problems an individual may experience engaging in community, social and family life)<sup>14</sup>

**Person-centred approach** – places the person with disability at the centre of decision making in terms of their own care needs<sup>15</sup>

**Reasonable and necessary supports** – the supports that are funded under the NDIS Act. The NDIA publishes operational guidelines to assist decisions on what is to be funded as a reasonable and necessary support.<sup>16</sup>

**Support package** – the term used to describe the funding available for the supports to an individual participant

**Supports** – assistance that helps a participant to reach their goals, objectives and aspirations, and to undertake activities to enable their social and economic participation<sup>17</sup>

9 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/glossary>

10 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/glossary>

11 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/glossary>

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13 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/glossary>

14 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/glossary>

15 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/glossary>

16 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/glossary>

17 <https://www.ndis.gov.au/glossary>