

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

About the Scheme

The NDIS, is a single national scheme, which 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

Am I eligible?

To be eligible, you must:

- 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.

To find out if you are eligible, go to the NDIS website and complete the [eligibility checklist](#)

If you are eligible, then you can apply by filling out the [Access Request Form](#) and submit this with supporting evidence from health professionals that provide your treatment. The evidence should be recent and in the form of letters, assessments, reports or a supporting evidence form. Information should be provided on your main diagnosis, how long this will last and how it impacts your daily life.

If you do not meet the access requirements, 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.

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 developing a personal plan that reflects your needs and your goals. The plan will start with a meeting 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, [Click Here](#)

Epilepsy Action Australia's [Your Planning Checklist](#) is a helpful tool to determine your needs and goals for your planning meeting

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

Yes. Epilepsy Action Australia will continue to deliver services regardless if you have NDIS funding or not. We offer 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
- Accredited and non-accredited online courses
- Peer support opportunities

To find out more about our services or courses & how we can assist, please contact us on:

Phone: **1300 37 45 37** Email: epilepsy@epilepsy.org.au or visit our website: www.epilepsy.org.au

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.

These [NDIS Booklets](#) explain the whole process

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.

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. In home supports or assistance with accessing social pursuits can provide a break for both the participant and carer.

[Click Here](#) to find out how NDIS can help families and carers



Rolling out the NDIS

Role of Local Area Coordination (LAC)

LACs can help you to:

- Understand and access the NDIS
- Create a plan
- Implement your plan
- Review your plan

For more about Local Area Coordinators [Click Here](#)

Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) Partners

The ECEI approach supports children aged 0-6 years who have a developmental delay or disability and their families and/or carers. For more [Click Here](#)

Support Coordination

A Support Coordinator will support you to understand and implement the funded supports in your plan and link you to community, mainstream and other government services. A support coordinator will work with you to build and the skills you need to understand, implement and make full use of your plan. For more about Support Coordinators, [Click Here](#)

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**

There are many useful [downloadable factsheets here](#)



Epilepsy Action Australia is a registered NDIS provider, delivering epilepsy education and individualised services to meet each person's needs. For further information or to find out how our Epilepsy Specialist Nurses can help, or enrol in a course, please contact:

1300 37 45 37 Email: epilepsy@epilepsy.org.au or visit our website: www.epilepsy.org.au



Glossary:

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

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, often a family member or guardian.

Community services – Activities and interests (not supplied by government groups), which are available to everyone in the community e.g. social, study and sporting interests.

NDIA – National Disability Insurance Agency. The Commonwealth government organisation administering the NDIS.

NDIS – National Disability Insurance Scheme. A new way of providing support for Australians with disability, their families and carers.

Participant – A person who meets the NDIS access requirements.

Plan – A written agreement worked out with the participant, stating their goals and needs, and the reasonable and necessary supports the NDIS will fund for them. Each participant has their own individual plan.

Person with disability – A person who has any or all of the following: impairments, activity limitations (difficulties in carrying out usual age-appropriate activities), and participation restrictions (problems a person may have taking part in community, social and family life).

Person-centred approach – places the person with disability at the centre of decision making in terms of their own care needs¹⁵

Reasonable and necessary – Reasonable means something fair and necessary means something you must have. The NDIS funds reasonable and necessary supports relating to a person's disability to help them live an ordinary life and achieve their goals.

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

Supports – Things to help a person undertake daily life activities and enable them to participate in the community and reach their goals.

Definitions taken from:

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