



# Mainstream Interface - Overview

## How the NDIS works with other mainstream services

### About the NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way of providing community inclusion and individualised support for people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has been established to implement the NDIS.

### What are mainstream services?

Mainstream services are the government systems providing services to the Australian public, eg. health, mental health, education, justice, housing, child protection and employment. Most people interact with a range of services throughout their lives.

### Supporting people with disability to participate fully in community life

Australia's vision is for an inclusive society that enables people with disability to fulfil their potential as equal citizens.

To achieve this vision, all Australian governments, non-government organisations, businesses and the wider community have a role to play.

The NDIS will be a significant source of support for participants. However, the NDIS is not intended to replace other mainstream services.

To be fully included in society, people with disability should be able to access mainstream services such as education and be supported to participate economically and socially.

The National Disability Strategy, along with state and territory disability strategies and action plans are some tools governments have in place to improve the response of mainstream services for people with disability.

### How the NDIS assists people with disability to access mainstream services

People living with a disability can be supported to access supports from mainstream services. The NDIS will help people do this.

NDIA staff will work in local communities to promote the inclusion of people with disability.

NDIS Local Area Coordinators can link people with disability to mainstream services and help other organisations to consider how people with disability can access their service. They will also provide information about making suitable adjustments to ensure their service or organisation is inclusive.

The NDIS will also fund individual assistance for participants to build their capacity to use mainstream services. For example, the NDIS will fund public transport training for a participant to be able to use the local bus service.

### Determining whether a support is funded by the NDIS or another mainstream service

The NDIS is not intended to replace other mainstream services. Inclusion and access for everyone is a shared responsibility and other government services will continue to play a critical role in supporting people with disability.

One of the key components of the NDIS, 'reasonable and necessary' supports, is that the support is more appropriately funded by the NDIS rather than another mainstream service.

Governments have agreed to principles in key areas that determine whether the NDIS or another system is more appropriate to fund supports for individuals.

Separate fact sheets are available on some of these areas, including health, education and employment.

If another system is responsible for a support, the NDIS cannot fund that support, even if the system responsible does not provide it.

Not stepping in to replace other systems is a critical principle of the NDIS to ensure people with disability continue to be serviced by mainstream systems and the NDIS is financially sustainable.

### Participating in learning and education

Participants may be attending school, higher education or vocational education and training. The NDIS will fund supports that enable participants to attend education where required.

The education system is responsible for educational attainment, including through teaching and educational resources and reasonable adjustments to education facilities.

Individuals and families sometimes also have a role in funding education-related supports, such as purchasing school uniforms, paying school fees and excursion fees. The NDIS does not cover these costs.

### Workforce participation

Many participants may be engaged in or seeking employment. A key objective of the NDIS is to help people with disability and their carers to participate in the workforce.

The NDIS will fund supports to help participants with employment where these are beyond the requirements of employment services and employers. The NDIS will also fund supports the participant would require regardless of the activity they are undertaking, such as transport and assistance with self-care.

Employers are responsible for making reasonable adjustments to enable people with disability to access their workplace. Employment services are responsible for assisting participants to build their skills to participate in work and to assist them to maintain employment. This includes the services offered by Disability Employment Services and Job Services Australia.

### Independent living

Like all Australians, participants in the NDIS need access to affordable, appropriate and secure housing. Some participants will have additional housing needs as a result of their disability.

The NDIS will assist participants to live independently. This includes through capacity building such as developing a participant's living skills, money management skills and social and communication skills. The NDIS can also fund home modifications, support with personal care and help around the home.

Most participants will continue to access housing in the private market through renting or home

ownership, or through social housing. Participants continue to be responsible for daily living costs such as rent, groceries and utility bills.

### Health and wellbeing

Like all Australians, NDIS participants are likely to need healthcare services throughout their lives. Participants may also have more complex healthcare needs associated with their disability.

The NDIS will fund supports that assist a participant to undertake activities of daily living where required due to the person's disability. This includes supports such as aids and equipment, home modifications and allied health and other therapy where this is required as a result of the participant's impairment (including physiotherapy, speech therapy or occupational therapy).

The health system has responsibility for the diagnosis, assessment and treatment of health conditions. This includes clinical services, such as general practitioners, care while admitted in hospital, surgery, the cost of medical specialists, dental care, medications and pharmaceuticals.

The health system is responsible for sub-acute care such as palliative care, and post-acute care, including nursing care for treating health conditions and wound management.

### What happens next?

Participants and their families will discuss their goals with an NDIA representative as part of their planning conversation.

Not all supports that will help participants to achieve their goals will require funding.

The participant's plan will include the supports the NDIS will fund for participants as well as the supports that are the responsibility of other mainstream services.

### More information

More detailed information on the responsibilities of mainstream services such as education and health is available in the mainstream interface factsheets or operational guidelines found on the website at [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)



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