



Every Australian Counts  
campaigning for the NDIS

# NDIS: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



# WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

## CONTACTS

Visit our website and sign up for the campaign.



[www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au)



[info@everyaustraliancounts.com.au](mailto:info@everyaustraliancounts.com.au)



[@everyaustralian](https://twitter.com/everyaustralian)



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## FOR EVERYBODY

- **[www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au)**  
The Every Australian Counts website is an online hub for the disability community that's packed with useful information, videos and news.
- **[www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)**  
The official NDIS website includes an access checklist, factsheets and information to help prepare you for the NDIS.

## FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

- **[www.afdo.org.au](http://www.afdo.org.au)**  
The Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) represents people with disability. They can connect you with advocacy support.

## FOR CARERS

- **[www.carersaustralia.com.au](http://www.carersaustralia.com.au)**  
Carers Australia is the national peak body representing carers. Through their website you can access carer support and services.

## FOR DISABILITY SUPPORT WORKERS

- **[www.ndp.org.au](http://www.ndp.org.au)**  
National Disability Practitioners provides resources, information, and professional development opportunities for disability support staff.

## FOR DISABILITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

- **[www.nds.org.au](http://www.nds.org.au)**  
National Disability Services is the peak body for disability service providers. They provide resources and information to prepare disability organisations for the NDIS.

# ABOUT EVERY AUSTRALIAN COUNTS

The Every Australian Counts campaign was launched on 26 January 2011 with the objective of creating the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Australia.

The campaign represents people with disability, their families, carers, advocacy groups and disability service providers as a united voice. Campaign supporters have played a key role in the battle to transform how Australians with disability are supported.

The Every Australian Counts campaign has been extremely successful. The NDIS now has multi-partisan support, is guaranteed by law and began in trial sites around the nation in July 2013. The NDIS started full scheme transition in July 2016.

After its initial success, the Every Australian Counts Campaign is now focused on preparing people with disability for the NDIS and making sure participants have realistic and positive expectations of what the scheme will deliver.

Visit our website [www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au)

It's an online hub for the disability community packed with useful resources, information, news and videos about the NDIS and broader disability issues.

## WHAT IS THE NDIS?

The existing disability system throughout Australia is inefficient, fragmented, unfair, underfunded and leaves most people with disability without the support they need. Plus, people with disability and their families don't get enough say in the type of supports they receive.

The NDIS stands for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. It's a new government policy that aims to transform the way Australia supports people with permanent and significant disability.

The foundations of the NDIS are built on two key pillars:

1. It's a universal system. The NDIS is a national program similar to Medicare. It will provide supports to all eligible Australians ensuring people with disability and their families get the support they need when they need it.
2. It's about more choice and control. The NDIS is based on the idea that people with disability and their families should be empowered to set their own goals and choose their own supports. This is achieved by giving them control over their own support budget.



In 2013 NDIS legislation was passed unanimously through Parliament.



The NDIS will more than double the number of people who receive support across Australia from 220,000 to over 460,000.



The NDIS will see disability spending increase nationally from just over \$7 billion to \$22 billion each year by 2020.

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## WILL THE NDIS MEAN MORE OR LESS SUPPORT?

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Under the existing disability system around 220,000 Australians receive funded disability supports. Under the NDIS approximately 460,000 people will receive funded supports, and the average support package will almost double from \$18,000 to \$35,000.

The NDIS is about making sure you have the right support in the right place at the right time to help you participate in the community and economy. If your needs change over time, you can have your plan reviewed and level of support adjusted. You will have complete choice and control over what's in your plan and who provides your supports so you can make the most of your package.

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## IS THE NDIS DIAGNOSIS BASED OR NEEDS BASED?

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**Needs based.** The NDIS does not have a list of conditions that automatically include or exclude you from support. It's based on what you need to live a full life, and how much your disability affects your ability to carry out everyday activities. In the case of children, it's about whether a disability is likely to be permanent or result in a developmental delay.

This is a big change from the existing system where children without a diagnosis often miss out on funding or their parents are forced to lie about their disability to get support.

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## AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE NDIS?

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To access the NDIS you must:

- have a significant and permanent disability – this includes people with psychosocial disability
- be an Australian citizen, permanent resident or a New Zealand citizen on a Protected Special Category Visa
- enter the Scheme before you turn 65.

If you're unsure whether you meet the above criteria, a good yardstick is if you're currently receiving funded support, you can expect to be eligible for the NDIS. For individuals who may benefit from early intervention, the eligibility criteria to access the NDIS is more flexible.

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The NDIS is being introduced in stages throughout Australia. Existing service users and new participants will enter the Scheme progressively. Full scheme transition began in July 2016 in many parts of Australia. There's still a few more years until it will be here for everyone. The best way to find out when the NDIS is coming to you is by visiting the government's website: [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)

As the NDIS rolls out, offices will open. Here are the current office locations:

## **Australian Capital Territory**

- Belconnen
- Braddon

## **New South Wales**

- Charlestown
- Newcastle

## **Tasmania**

- Devonport
- Hobart
- Launceston

## **Victoria**

- Colac
- Corio
- Darebin
- Geelong
- Greensborough

## **Northern Territory**

- Tennant Creek

## **South Australia**

- Elizabeth
- Modbury
- Murray Bridge
- Noarlunga
- Port Adelaide
- St Marys

## **Western Australia**

- Midland



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## **WHERE IS THE NDIS AVAILABLE NOW?**

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## WHAT SUPPORTS DOES THE NDIS COVER?

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## HOW DOES THE NDIS PROCESS WORK?

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The types of supports you might get include therapies such as physiotherapy, mobility and technological aids and home modifications. And it's not just about covering the 'essentials' – your plan could include things such as recreational activities, developing skills like shopping or cooking and help with finding a job. No two people are exactly the same, so neither are the supports in their plan. The NDIS is about you living the life you want – not just getting by.

Some of the supports the NDIS will cover include:

- Aids, equipment, home and vehicle modifications
- Personal care
- Support community inclusion
- Short term accommodation (respite)
- Specialist housing support
- Transport assistance
- Therapies
- Guide and assistance dogs
- Support coordination
- Specialist employment services
- Domestic assistance

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**Step one** to accessing the NDIS is to find out if you are eligible. Remember, under the new system more people with disability will receive funded supports than ever before. If you are already using disability services and supports you will be contacted by the NDIS or a representative when it's time to transition. Others may need to present proof of disability such as a statement from your doctor explaining your disability and how it affects your life. The Access checklist on the NDIS website is a good place to start;

[www.myplace.ndis.gov.au/ndisstorefront/ndis-access-checklist](http://www.myplace.ndis.gov.au/ndisstorefront/ndis-access-checklist)

**Step two** is to start the planning process by talking to the NDIS or one of their representatives. The idea is to talk through your support needs and goals together and, come up with the best ways that are reasonable and necessary to meet these goals. And you don't have to do it alone – you can invite a family member or friend or support worker to come along too. Together with the planner you will develop a support package.

**Every Australian Counts tip:** Think about your planning meeting as the chance to get the most out of your NDIS support package – the more time you spend preparing, the better your plan will be. So before your meeting, think about what you'll need to live the life you want. It can also be helpful to chat to your family and carers about what's missing in your current supports, activities and plans.

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At your NDIS planning meetings you will come up with how to put your plan into action. Most importantly, that means coming up with the supports and services you need to live your life to the full.

This means that for the first time ever, you can decide exactly where your supports come from. This can be through the service providers you're using now, finding completely new ones, or even self-managing your supports – **it's completely up to you!**

if you disagree with an NDIS assessment or are unhappy with your support package, you have the right to ask for a review from the NDIS. You also have the right to get an advocate, friend or independent representative to help you out in this process.



**95%** of participants have rated their NDIS experience as **“good”** or **“very good”**

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## I HAVE AN NDIS PLAN. WHAT NEXT?

**Every Australian Counts tip:** The NDIS was set up to give you the power to choose your own supports and service providers. You can do your own research or get help from advice and advocacy organisations. It can also be useful to talk to other people with disability, family members or carers about what works or doesn't work for them. Remember, your plan is not a one-off decision. If or when your needs change, so can your plan.

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The NDIS will be here for all Australians who need it (460,000 people) no later than 30 June 2019.

Rollout information and timetables can be found online: [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)

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## WHEN WILL THE NDIS BE HERE FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS?

# 10 WAYS THE NDIS WILL BENEFIT ALL AUSTRALIANS

- 1 It's a national system. If you, or someone you love, is born with a disability or acquires one later in life, you all no longer run the risk of falling through holes in Australia's safety net based on what state or territory you live in.
- 2 People with a disability and their families and carers can participate in the social, economic, and cultural life of the nation with the supports and programs they choose.
- 3 Families will be able to access support and services for assistance in meeting the needs of their family member with a disability, reducing physical, emotional and financial stress.
- 4 The NDIS is based on equality. You will be able to equally access existing services regardless of when and where your disability was acquired.
- 5 There will no longer be an expectation of unpaid care as the norm.
- 6 As a Medicare-type system, the NDIS will provide people with a disability and their families and carers with the regular care, support, therapy and equipment they need from a secure and consistent pool of funds for these services and support.
- 7 It focuses on early intervention and delivering supports which produce the best long term outcomes, maximising opportunities for independence, participation and productivity.
- 8 Each NDIS plan is individualised and person-centred. Support is based on the choices of the person with a disability and their family.
- 9 The NDIS is fiscally responsible. It is not welfare but an investment in individual capacity leading to more positive results for people with a disability, their families and carers.
- 10 All Australians benefit from the NDIS because disability can affect anyone, anytime. Everyone will benefit from a more inclusive, more diverse community.

Every Australian Counts will keep you up to date with all the NDIS news, information, stories and experience on our website;

[everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://everyaustraliancounts.com.au)