

## Factsheet

# How to join the NDIS in NSW



The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is now available to all eligible people with disability in NSW. You can apply to join the NDIS at any time, wherever you live in NSW. The NDIS may be for you, even if you haven't received disability supports from the NSW government before.

### How can the NDIS help me?

The NDIS makes sure people with a permanent and significant disability can get the support they need to live their life and do the things they want to do.

The NDIS gives you choice and control over the supports you receive to meet your needs or help achieve your goals. You can say who, when, where and how you want your supports delivered.

### Who is responsible for the NDIS?

The National Disability Agency (NDIA) is responsible for the NDIS. The NDIA is a Commonwealth Government body. They take care of processing access requests, developing plans, reviewing plans and payments to service providers. The NSW Government will support the NDIS and promote the scheme and the NSW Disability Inclusion Act. The NSW Government is working with the Commonwealth Government and the NDIA to ensure the scheme works and delivers for people with disability.

### Am I eligible for the NDIS?

You may be eligible for the NDIS if you:

- have a permanent disability that significantly affects your ability to take part in everyday activities;
- are under 65 when you make your application,
- are an Australian Citizen or resident or permanent visa holder, and;
- meet the disability or early intervention requirements.

The NDIA is responsible for the NDIS. They assess your eligibility for the NDIS. To check your eligibility for the NDIS, refer to the NDIS website [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au).





### Can I join the NDIS?

The NDIS is here to provide support to all eligible people with disability in NSW.

It is now available across NSW and, if you are eligible, you can apply to join the NDIS at any time, wherever you live.

You can apply for the NDIS even if you haven't previously received supports or if you have recently acquired a disability.

For more information on the NDIS in NSW visit [www.ndis.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ndis.nsw.gov.au).

### What if I am not eligible for the NDIS?

All people with disability in NSW can receive NSW Government services including health and education supports.

If you are deemed ineligible, depending on what your needs are you may be able to get support through mainstream and community services.

All people with disability are also able to access supports through the NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity (ILC) Building projects. ILC connects people to their community.

If you are aged 65 years and over you will not be eligible for the NDIS and in most cases will receive support through the Commonwealth aged care system.

#### Kerrie's story

Before the NDIS, Kerrie's little boy Samuel could not always get the right disability support he needed. Communicating was a big challenge for him, but thanks to Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI), he's now thriving.

"Samuel doesn't have a 'formal' diagnosis, so for us, being able to enter the NDIS was invaluable because it's not based on diagnosis, it's based on functionality, so we're getting more individualised support," said Kerrie.

"The NDIS let us engage the right support for Samuel. We've been working with speech and occupational therapists, a physiotherapist and an educator to help him communicate and participate with other children his age."

"The NDIS has opened up so many doors for our family."

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### What should I do next?

You can check if you are eligible via the national NDIS website [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au).

If you think you might be eligible, you apply to join the NDIS by completing an access request form. You can get an access request form by calling the NDIA on **1800 800 110**.

For more information about the access request process visit [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au).



The NDIS is now available for all eligible people with disability in NSW. You can apply to join the NDIS at any time, wherever you live in NSW.



#### Find out if you are eligible

Find out if you are eligible via the National Disability Insurance Agency NDIS Checklist tool

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



#### Call the NDIS

Call the NDIS on 1800 800 110 to ask for an access request form.



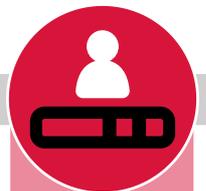
#### Complete the access request form

You will be asked some questions to confirm your identity, provide consent and information about your disability.



#### Meet with an NDIS representative

An NDIS representative will set up a meeting with you to talk about your first plan. At the meeting you will talk about your life and the supports you receive now.



#### Use your plan

The NDIA will contact you when your plan is ready and will let you know how you can use it.



Remember, you can request access to the NDIS even if you haven't previously got supports or if you have recently acquired a disability.

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### Where can I go for extra help?



#### Family and other people in your life you trust

You can get help from a family member, friend or carer, an NDIS Local Area Coordinator or early childhood partner, a General Practitioner (GP) or other health professionals. You can also get help from Ability Links NSW Coordinators, known as Linkers. You can find a local Linker by visiting the Ability Links Website [www.abilitylinksnsw.org.au](http://www.abilitylinksnsw.org.au).



#### Service Provider

If you already receive disability supports then your service provider can explain what other types of disability supports are available and where they can be provided.



#### NDIA

The NDIA is there to provide you with the help you need. Contact the NDIA by visiting [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au) or write to them at National Disability Insurance Agency GPO Box 700 Canberra ACT 2601 or call on **1800 800 110**.

#### Tania's story

The stroke that took away Tania's confidence and independence at age 39 also took her away from her family and her community.

The isolation of being confined to her bed in an aged care facility for three years was as debilitating to Tania as the physical effects of her stroke.

The NDIS meant that Tania was able to put plans in place that would help her reclaim her life. Her first goal was an electric wheelchair.

Tania's second goal was to be reunited with her husband and daughter; her NDIS funding allowed her to choose the personalised supports and equipment she needed to move back home and live with her family.

"The NDIS has absolutely changed my life for the better."