

## The Basics

### Eligibility



A person must be **under 65** years of age at the time of applying for the NDIS, live in Australia as a **citizen or permanent resident**, and have a permanent physical, intellectual, cognitive, neurological, visual, hearing or psychosocial impairment that meets either the **disability** or **early intervention** requirements.



### Disability Requirements

A person will meet the disability requirements if the NDIA is provided evidence of all of the following:

- ✓ The person's disability is caused by an impairment.
- ✓ The person's impairment is likely to be permanent.
- ✓ The person's permanent impairment substantially reduces their functional capacity to undertake one or more of the following activities: moving around, communicating, socialising, learning, or undertaking self-care or self-management tasks.
- ✓ The person's permanent impairment affects their ability to work, study or take part in social life.
- ✓ The person will likely need support under the NDIS for their whole life.



A person may meet the disability requirements if their permanent impairment causes their functional capacity to fluctuate/worsen over time.

A person will not meet the disability requirements if their permanent impairment does not substantially reduce their functional capacity and/or they are not likely to need support under the NDIS for their whole life. However, they may meet the early intervention requirements.

### Early Intervention Requirements

A person will meet the early intervention requirements if they meet all of the following:

- ✓ The person has an impairment that is likely to be permanent.
- ✓ Early intervention supports will help the person, for example if it means they'll need less disability support in the future and their functional capacity will improve.
- ✓ The early intervention the person needs is most appropriately funded by the NDIS.

A person must meet all of the disability or early intervention requirements to become a participant of the NDIS. All criteria are equally important when assessing eligibility, i.e. no matter how substantially reduced a person's functional capacity is, they will not meet the access requirements if their impairment is not permanent, or if the supports they require are not most appropriately funded by the NDIS.



### Functional Capacity

How does impairment affect the person's ability to perform everyday tasks and activities?

#### Reduced Capacity

A person's impairment substantially reduces their functional capacity if they usually need disability-specific supports to participate in or complete one or more activities.

These disability-specific supports include:



a high level of support from other people, such as physical assistance, guidance, supervision or prompting.



assistive technology, equipment or home modifications that are prescribed by a doctor, allied health professional or other medical professional.

### Functional Domains

#### Communication



- Understanding others
- Being understood in spoken, written or sign language
- Expressing needs and wants by gesture, speech or context appropriate to age

#### Social Interaction



- Making and keeping friends
- Interacting with the community
- Behaving within limits accepted by others
- Coping with feelings and emotions in a social context

#### Self-care



- Grooming and dressing
- Personal hygiene (showering, bathing, toileting)
- Eating and making choices around food
- Health care needs (medications, interoception)

#### Learning



- Learning new things
- Practising and using new skills
- Understanding and remembering information

#### Mobility



- Leaving the home
- Moving around the home
- Moving about in the community
- Undertaking ordinary activities or tasks of daily living

#### Self-management



- Making decisions
- Managing finances
- Completing daily tasks
- Taking responsibility for oneself
- Making, sticking to, and adjusting plans

# Applications & Evidence

## Defining the Disability/Disabilities

### Primary Disability

This is the disability that has the most significant impact on the person's functional capacity.

### Secondary Disabilities

These are any other disabilities that significantly impact the person's functional capacity and are likely to be permanent.

### Medical Conditions

Some medical conditions may meet the disability requirements. However, any medical conditions that can be alleviated or cured will not be eligible.

## Providing Evidence

### 1 Diagnosis

A formal diagnosis, whilst very helpful, is not always required to meet the eligibility requirements. Evidence that a person has a permanent impairment, even without a formal diagnosis, may be sufficient.

A diagnosis should be provided by the most appropriate health professional. A diagnosis of autism, for example, can be provided by any appropriately qualified and registered professional, e.g. specialist multi-disciplinary team, paediatrician, psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, etc.

### 2 Prior Treatments

A disability will only be considered permanent if all known, available and appropriate evidence-based treatments have been explored with a clinician.

A clinician should outline any prior treatments undertaken, and provide a statement that the person is unlikely to experience clinical recovery from the ongoing effects or symptoms of the disability.

### 3 Functional Capacity

In the relevant functional domain, make clear concise statements outlining the impact the disability has when the person attempts a specific task/activity, and the assistance/equipment that may assist, if any.

This provides a clear understanding of the day-to-day impact of the disability on the person.

### 4 Assessments and Reports

Providing relevant assessments or reports is important, as they provide evidence of a clinical diagnosis and a clinical assessment of the impact the disability has on the person.

Clinical evidence is important to provide, but it does not replace the need for clear, concise statements about the person's functional capacity.

## Writing Tips

The NDIA needs to know how a disability impacts on the functional capacity and daily life of a person. Every statement should highlight the impact on a task/activity, and assistance/equipment that may assist, if any.

### Some examples:

"Due to [disability], [person] is unable/struggles to [task/action] without [assistance/equipment]."

E.g. Due to a below-knee amputation, John Doe is unable to walk without the use of a prosthetic leg.

E.g. Jane Doe has Level 2 autism, causing her to struggle with self-control and emotional regulation in complex social situations without the assistance of a support person. This prevents her from making and keeping friendships.

To apply for NDIS, the person, or those assisting them, should reach out to their NDIA Partner in the Community for guidance and assistance.



## Key Contacts

NDIA Partners in the Community assist people to understand and access the NDIS. They also work with participants to develop and use their plans.

The Mid North Coast NDIA Partners in the Community are:

### Blue Sky Community Services (Ages 9-65)

1800 241 675 bluesky@ndis.gov.au

### Northcott (Ages 0-9)

1800 818 286 ecei@northcott.com.au



Delivering the NDIS in your community

The NDIS website offers information, resources and everything you may need to understand the NDIS  
Visit <https://www.ndis.gov.au>