



NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS) ACCESS

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE NDIS?

To apply for access to the NDIS, you can complete an Access Request Form (attached to this document). Once the Access Request Form is complete, and you have all of the medical evidence you need, you can post it together in an envelope to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) at GPO Box Canberra ACT 2601. You can call the NDIA on 1800 800 110 if you have any questions about your eligibility. If you do not have access to a printer, you can call the NDIA and ask them to mail to form to you.

DO I MEET THE REQUIREMENTS TO ACCESS THE NDIS?

To access the NDIS you must meet **both** of the following requirements:

1. Age requirements
 - You must be between 7 and 65 year old.
 - If your child is under 7 years old, you can contact the NDIA and ask for the phone number of your nearest “Early Childhood Partner”.
2. Residence requirements
 - You must live in Australia and be an Australian Citizen or have a Special Category Visa.



You must also meet **one** of the following requirements:

1. Have a permanent condition resulting in substantially reduced functional capacity; or
 - Explained below.
2. Meet the early intervention requirement
 - Explained below.

1. PERMANENT CONDITION RESULTING IN SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY

Reduced functional capacity means that it is very difficult for you to do one or more of the following things:

- Mobilise
- Communicate
- Interact socially
- Learn
- Self-care and/or self-manage

Below is a table of the types of conditions that are likely to meet this requirement, and the evidence you will need to provide.

Condition	Evidence Required
Intellectual disability	Diagnosed and assessed as moderate, severe or profound in accordance with current DSM criteria (e.g. IQ 55 points or less and severe deficits in adaptive functioning).
Autism	Diagnosed by a specialist multi-disciplinary team, paediatrician, psychiatrist or clinical psychologist experienced in the assessment of Pervasive Developmental Disorders, and assessed using the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders

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	(DSM-V) diagnostic criteria as having severity of Level 2 (Requiring substantial support) or Level 3 (Requiring very substantial support).
Cerebral palsy	diagnosed and assessed as severe (e.g. assessed as Level 3, 4 or 5 on the Gross Motor Function Classification System - GMFCS).
Genetic conditions	conditions that consistently result in permanent and severe intellectual and physical impairments.
Spinal cord injury or brain injury	Resulting in paraplegia, quadriplegia or tetraplegia, or hemiplegia where there is severe or total loss of strength and movement in the affected limbs of the body.
Permanent blindness in both eyes	Diagnosed and assessed by an ophthalmologist as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Corrected visual acuity (extent to which an object can be brought into focus) on the Snellen Scale must be less than or equal to 6/60 in both eyes; or○ Constriction to within 10 degrees or less of arc of central fixation in the better eye, irrespective of corrected visual acuity (i.e. visual fields are reduced to a measured arc of 10 degrees or less); or○ A combination of visual defects resulting in the same degree of visual impairment as that occurring in the above points. (An optometrist report is not sufficient for NDIS purposes.)
Permanent bilateral hearing loss	> 90 decibels in the better ear (pure tone average of 500Hz, 1000Hz, 2000Hz and 4000Hz).
Deafblindness	Confirmed by ophthalmologist and audiologist and assessed as resulting in permanent and severe to total impairment of visual function and hearing.
Amputation or congenital absence of two limbs.	
Any other conditions	Any other conditions will require evidence about how the condition impacts your mobility, communication, social interaction, learning, self-care or ability to self-manage. This evidence could be reports, letters or assessments from a health or education professional.

2. EARLY INTERVENTION

You can access the NDIS through early intervention if:

- The NDIA think that it would be beneficial for you to access the NDIS now, so that you are less likely to need to access the NDIS later in life. For example, if the NDIS support can prevent future deterioration of your functional capacity, or can improve your functional capacity.

You can only access the NDIS through Early intervention if you meeting one of the following:

- You have a permanent intellectual, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairment; or
- You have a permanent psychiatric condition; or
- You are a child who has developmental delay.

IF I GET NDIS, WILL IT AFFECT MY CENTRELINK BENEFITS?

Payments from the NDIS for approved reasonable and necessary supports is not considered 'income' by Centrelink, and will not affect your Centrelink payments. NDIS supports are also are exempt from tax. You will not receive Mobility Allowance if you get NDIS.

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