



The NDIS and mainstream interfaces

How the NDIS works with other mainstream systems

About the NDIS

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

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

Supporting people with disability to participate fully in community life

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

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

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

To be fully included in society, people with disability should be able to access mainstream systems such as school

education and be supported to participate economically.

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

How the Scheme assists people with disability to access mainstream services

People with disability should be supported to access supports from mainstream systems.

Wherever possible the Scheme assists participants to access mainstream systems.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (the Agency) employs staff who will work locally in the community to promote the inclusion of people with disability.

The Agency's Local Area Coordinators can link people with disability to mainstream systems and assist other organisations to include people with disability.

The Scheme will also fund individual assistance for participants to build their capacity to use mainstream services. For example, the Scheme 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 Scheme or another system

The Scheme is not intended to replace other mainstream systems. Indeed, the Scheme's financial sustainability depends on other systems continuing their efforts to support people with disability.

One of the key components of the Scheme's 'reasonable and necessary' supports is that

the support is more appropriately funded by the Scheme rather than another system.

Governments have agreed to key principles in key areas that determine whether the Scheme 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 Scheme 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 Scheme to ensure people with disability continue to have access to mainstream systems and the Scheme is financially sustainable.

Participating in learning and education

Participants may be attending school, higher education or vocational education and training. The Scheme will fund supports that enable participants to attend education, where these supports are required by the participant to engage in a range of community activities.

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 Scheme will not cover these costs.

Workforce participation

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

The Scheme will fund supports to assist participants with employment where these

are beyond the requirements of employment services and employers. The Scheme 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 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 Scheme need access to affordable, appropriate and secure housing. Some participants will have additional housing needs as a result of their disability.

The Scheme will assist all participants to live independently. This includes through capacity building such as living skills training, money management and social and communication skills. The Scheme can also fund home modifications, support with personal care and domestic assistance around the home.

Most participants will continue to access housing in the private market – rental 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, the Scheme participants are likely to need healthcare services throughout their lives. Participants may also have more complex healthcare needs associated with their disability.

The Scheme will fund supports that assist a participant to undertake activities of daily living 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?

More detailed information on the responsibilities of mainstream systems such as education and health is available on the [website](http://www.ndis.gov.au) at www.ndis.gov.au

Participants and their families will discuss their goals with the Agency as part of their planning conversation.

The participant's plan will include the supports the Scheme will fund for participants and those supports which are the responsibility of the other mainstream systems.

More information

- Visit ndis.gov.au
- Email enquiries@ndis.gov.au
- Call 1800 800 110* Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm EST
- For people with hearing or speech loss:
 - TTY: 1800 555 677
 - Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727
 - For people who need help with English TIS: 131 450

*1800 calls are free from fixed lines; however calls from mobiles may be charged.