Participant Information Pack

# Applying to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

# Information for about applying to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Tasmania

**November 2022**

**Introduction**

We are testing a better way to deliver the NDIS.

We’ve spent time talking to participants, our Agency staff, local area coordinators and early childhood partners and the disability community to work out the ways we can improve the experience people have with the Scheme.

Part of this work has been designing and building a new computer system to help us deliver a nationally consistent experience for participants. We are not changing the rules or the way the NDIS works. We’re testing ways to improve how we:

* Help people with disability learn about and connect with community and mainstream services, including the NDIS
* Support people to apply for the NDIS
* Create an NDIS plan
* Support participants to make the most of their NDIS plan.

We have tested our new computer system and the way it works with our staff and local area coordinator and early childhood partners.

Participants have helped us design the system. It’s now time to test it with participants.

We decided to do the test in Tasmania with participants, providers and the wider disability community to make sure our systems and processes work as they should, and we deliver a quality experience for participants.

Testing in Tasmania means we can learn from the experience, collect feedback from participants, providers, staff, NDIS partners and the community. We can then make any changes or improvements we need to before we begin using our new computer system in the rest of Australia.

We created this information pack to help you prepare for the NDIS test in Tasmania.

You can see other information packs and learn more about the NDIS test in Tasmania at [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)/improvements

**Your NDIS journey**

If you are applying to access the NDIS in Tasmania from November 2022, you will have a different NDIS journey to other participants in Australia. This pack provides information about what you can expect from your NDIS experience and how you will be supported to pursue your goals. You’ve probably already completed the first step in your NDIS journey:

* Making connections

This pack provides you with information about:

* **Applying to the NDIS**

We have other information packs on our website to help you with:

* Creating your plan
* Using your NDIS plan
* Changing your NDIS plan

**Applying to the NDIS**

**Before you apply to access the NDIS**

The kind of information and evidence we need from you to decide if you’re eligible for the NDIS is the same for everyone applying to access the Scheme. Even though we are testing some improvements to how we deliver the NDIS in Tasmania, there is no change to the eligibility requirements, or what you need to provide to support your NDIS application.

You can read more about the evidence you need to provide in your NDIS application on our [website](https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis/how-apply/information-support-your-request/types-disability-evidence).

**When you apply to access the NDIS**

If you want to become an NDIS participant and get supports through an NDIS plan, there are some requirements you need to meet to be [eligible for the NDIS](https://www.ndis.gov.au/improvements/our-guidelines-ndis-test-tasmania).

First, you need to be younger than 65 when you apply, be an Australian citizen or permanent resident, and live in Australia. Then, you’ll need to meet the disability or early intervention requirements.

You may be eligible under the disability requirements if you have one or more impairments that are likely to be permanent and this substantially impacts your ability to do daily life activities. Your impairment must also affect your social life, or your ability to work and study and you must be likely to need support under the NDIS for your whole life.

Or, you may be eligible under the early intervention requirements if you have one or more impairments that are likely to be permanent, and supports would help you by reducing your need for supports in the future. We will also consider if these needs could best be met by the NDIS, or by other mainstream and community services.

**Help to apply to the NDIS**

After working with your NDIS local area coordinator or early childhood partner to connect with community and other mainstream supports in your area, you may decide to submit an NDIS application to see if you are eligible to become a Scheme participant. We can help you apply to the NDIS. We’ll look at all the information you give us to decide if you’re eligible.

If you’re eligible for the NDIS, you’ll become a participant and we’ll work with you to start creating your plan. You can read more about how we build your NDIS plan in our Creating your plan Information Pack on our Booklets and Information Packs [webpage](https://www.ndis.gov.au/improvements/participant-booklets-and-information-packs).

If you’re not eligible, we can help you connect to other mainstream and community services in your area.

Your NDIS partner will get to know you and discuss your situation. They will talk to you about the NDIS eligibility criteria, the application process, the kinds of information and evidence you need to provide, and what to expect from this process, including when you will know whether you are eligible.

Your NDIS partner will help you to gather information and evidence for your NDIS application. By working together on the application, you can be confident you have included all the information needed for us to make a decision. It will take the guesswork out of the process for you and the people supporting you.

Information and evidence that you will need to provide includes documents proving:

* You are an Australian citizen or permanent resident
* Your personal details, like name, date of birth, and address
* Your disability is permanent and significant
* An explanation of your functional capacity, informal, other government and community supports.

Once you have your information and evidence, your NDIS partner will complete the application with you, entering all the information you provide into our computer system.

If you have questions on what is required, your NDIS partner can help you.

Because you will have already met with your NDIS partner to talk about community connections, we will have information from you about your living situation, your goals and your day-to-day supports and whether you already access community and other mainstream services. This means you will only need to tell us your story once.

Once we have all the information we need to make a decision, we’ll tell you if you’re eligible for the NDIS within 21 days.

If you’re eligible to be an NDIS participant, we will use the information and evidence you give us in your application to start building your NDIS plan.

In the meantime, you can start accessing the community and other mainstream supports in your Community Connections plan, if you have one.

Your NDIS partner will work with you, supporting you through every stage of your NDIS journey. They will talk to you about what to expect from the NDIS access and planning process, as well as how to make the most of your NDIS plan and/or your Community Connections plan, if you have one.

**Your experience**

You can talk to us about your experience of applying to access the NDIS in Tasmania. Find out how to contact us on our website at [www.ndis.gov.au/contact](http://www.ndis.gov.au/contact)

You can also share your feedback at: transition.engagement@ndis.gov.au

Your feedback will help us learn more from our test in Tasmania and to make any changes or improvements we need to before we begin using our new computer system in the rest of Australia.

To help improve the process, we may contact you to ask you about your experience.