



Bill Shorten Australian Press Club speech



Bill Shorten is the Government Minister for the NDIS.

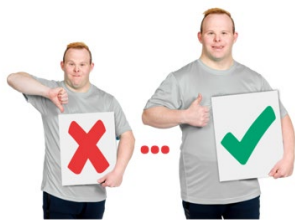


Mr Shorten did a speech to journalists on 18 April 2023 about the NDIS.



He talked about

- Problems with the NDIS



- What needs to change to make it work better



This Easy Read information is about what Bill Shorten said.

What did Bill Shorten say?



The NDIS is here to stay.

It is not going away.



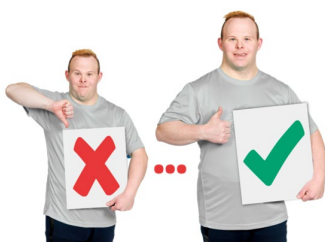
Some things need to change to make it work better.



Australia is paying more money for disability support but people with disabilities are not getting what they need.



We need to make the NDIS better for people with a disability.



This will be good for everyone.



We need to make sure all the money in the NDIS goes to NDIS participants.



It will take time to make the NDIS better.



We will all need to work together to make this happen.

The problems with the NDIS



The NDIS is not working properly.

There are lots of good service providers in Australia.

There are lots of good support workers.



There are also some service providers who do the wrong thing like

- make NDIS participants ask for services and supports they do not need.
- Spend participants' NDIS money on things that are not in their plan.



The NDIS is too hard and complicated.

It has been a nightmare for some people.

First Nations people and people from different cultures



A journalist asked Mr Shorten a question about **eligibility**.

Eligibility means if people can get support from the NDIS.



He said there are some people with a disability who cannot access the NDIS.



Lots of the people missing out on the NDIS are First Nations people and **culturally and linguistically diverse** people.

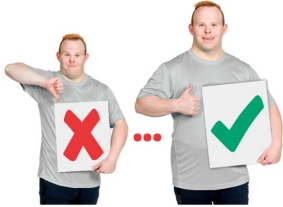
First Nations means Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Culturally and linguistically diverse means you come from a different country, culture, or religion.

We sometimes say **CALD** for short.

What needs to change



We need to make lots of changes to the NDIS to make sure it is doing what people with a disability need.



Mr Shorten called this a **reboot** of the NDIS.

This is like turning something off then turning it on again, like a switch.



The government has already made a change to have more people with disability leading the NDIS.

Half of the people in charge at the NDIA are people with a disability.



This includes the new NDIA Chair Kurt Fearnley.

6 changes



The government has planned 6 big changes to make the NDIS better.



1. More staff at the National Disability Insurance Agency.

The National Disability Insurance Agency is the organisation that runs the NDIS. We call it the **NDIA** for short.



More NDIA staff means that people will be able to do their job properly.

This means people with disability will only need to tell their story once.



2. Longer NDIS plans

This means people do not have to prove they still have a disability every 6 to 12 months.



3. Stop providers from charging too much money for services.

This means people will have more money in their plans for all the things they need.



Supports should be **reasonable and necessary**.

Reasonable and necessary means supports are fair and the person needs them because of their disability.



Bill Shorten said there should also be proof that the supports work well.



4. Look at **Supported Independent Living**.

Supported Independent Living or SIL is a support for people who need lots of help at home.

SIL is not doing a good job for many people with disabilities.



5. Stop service providers that are doing the wrong thing.



6. Make sure mainstream services work together with the NDIS

Mainstream services are services for everyone in Australia.

This includes things like health, education, and transport.



Mr Shorten also said there will be a new program with Telethon Kids Institute for 700 families in WA.



This program is about services for very young children.



[Click here](#) to watch a video of Bill Shorten's speech.