



# NDIS Review Background Paper

## Reasonable and necessary



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## About this paper



This paper is about what is **reasonable and necessary** in the NDIS.



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



**Inclusion  
Australia**

This paper was written by Inclusion Australia.

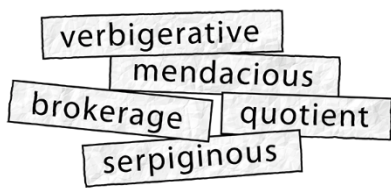
Where it says 'we' it means Inclusion Australia.



This paper is written in Easy Read.



It is a good idea to read this paper with support.



Hard words are in **bold**.

We have written what they mean.



You can read the big version of this paper [here](#).

## About the NDIS Review

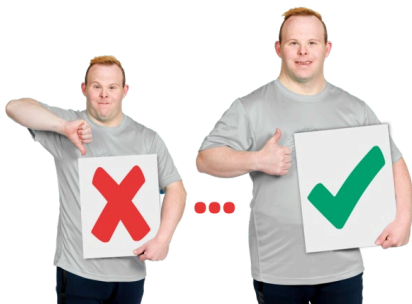


This paper was written as part of the **NDIS Review**.



The NDIS Review is looking at

- What works well in the NDIS
- What could be better in the NDIS
- What needs to change in the NDIS
- How to make the NDIS last a long time.



The NDIS Review asked us to speak to people with intellectual disability and their families about their experiences with the NDIS.

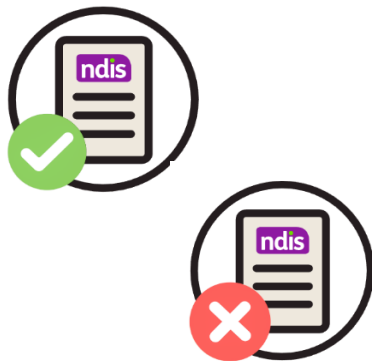
## Understanding what reasonable and necessary means



The NDIS will pay for a person's supports if they think the supports are reasonable and necessary.



But a lot of people are confused about what reasonable and necessary really means.



This makes it hard for people to know what they can and cannot get with their NDIS funding.



It also makes it hard for planners and **LACs** to know what they can ask for when helping people write their NDIS plans.



**LAC** is short for **Local Area Coordinator**.

An **LAC** is someone who helps participants with their NDIS plans and supports.



Doctors and therapists are unsure what to write in their reports to help the participant get the supports they need.



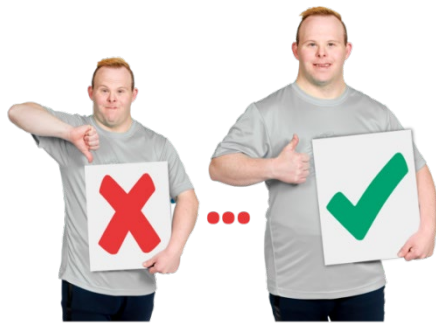
People are unsure which supports should be paid for by NDIS and which supports are better funded by a different system

For example education supports.

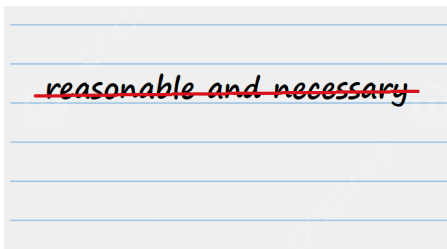


The NDIA needs to think about what reasonable and necessary really means.





This means they might need to change the way they explain reasonable and necessary to make it easier to understand.



The NDIA might decide to stop using the words reasonable and necessary and change it to something else.



The NDIA will need to help everyone understand any changes they make.

This includes



- NDIS participants and their families
- Planners and LACs
- Service providers
- Doctors and therapists.





The NDIA will need to make sure NDIS participants and their families get accessible information about the changes.

For example in Easy Read.



Planners and LAC's will need training to learn about the changes so they can support participants properly.



This will better help participants get what they want and need in their NDIS plans.

## Understanding what people need



People with intellectual disability have a hard time getting reasonable and necessary supports in their NDIS plans.



This is because planners and LACs

- do not spend enough time talking to the participant and getting to know them



- will speak to family members or other supporters instead of to the participant themselves



- expect **informal supports** to give the participant more support than they are able to.

Informal supports are unpaid carers such as family and friends.



This means participants often

- do not get a say in their NDIS plans
- have to rely on informal supports to make plan decisions for them.



The NDIA needs to make a group of planners and LACs that work just with people with intellectual disability.



These planners and LACs would be trained on how to best support and work with people with intellectual disability.



People with intellectual disability need to be supported to learn about **supported decision making**.



Supported decision making means making your own decisions with good support.



This includes being given

- accessible information about supported decision making
- NDIS funding to support them in learning about supported decision making.





This will help people with intellectual disability to

- make their own decisions



- get the supports they need in their NDIS plans.

## Clear rules and decisions



Participants feel the decisions the NDIA makes about what is reasonable and necessary changes from person to person.



This makes it hard to work out

- What the NDIS will pay for
- What the NDIS will not pay for.



Decisions about what is reasonable and necessary need to be fair for everyone.

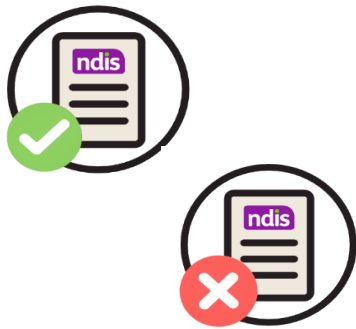


The NDIS needs to

- be clearer about what supports can and cannot be funded
- make sure planners and LACs know what can and cannot be funded.



The NDIS needs to clearly explain their reasons when they make a decision about a person's NDIS plan.



The NDIA needs to keep track of

- the decisions they make about people's NDIS plans
- if the NDIS is helping participants reach their goals





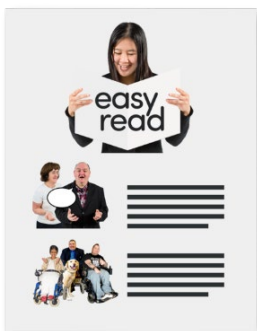


- any **complaints** people make about their NDIS plan.

A **complaint** is when you are not happy with something and you tell the NDIA about it.



The NDIA needs to check the information about decisions, complaints and goals to make sure the NDIS is working properly.



This information should be made in a way that is easy for participants and families to understand.

## What happens next?



The Review will look closely at what everyone has said about the NDIS.



The Review will give their Final Report to the Government with ideas about how the NDIS could be better.



The Final Report is due in October 2023.



**Australian Government**

The Government will decide what to do about the NDIS Review's ideas.