



## Bill Shorten's speech about NDIS law changes



Bill Shorten is the government minister for the NDIS.



Bill Shorten works with the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.



Bill Shorten did a political speech on 27 March 2024 about changes to the NDIS law.



This Easy Read summary was written by Inclusion Australia to help people understand what Bill Shorten said.

## What did Bill Shorten say?



Before the NDIS it could be very hard for people with disability to

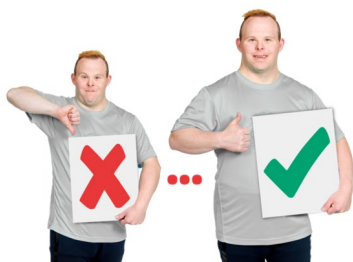
- Find somewhere to live
- Get a job
- Get support
- Be included.



The NDIS has helped lots of people with disability to get support and be included in the community.



But the NDIS is not working well for everyone.



The Australian government has been trying to make the NDIS work better.

Some things the government has done are



- Put more people with disability and First Nations people on the **board**.

The **board** are the bosses who are in charge of the NDIS.



- Tried to the fix the way **NDIS Appeals** work

**NDIS Appeals** are what happens when you do not agree with an NDIS decision.



- Get children good support from when they are babies.



- Stop service providers who are dodgy or charging too much money.



The government organised for the NDIS Review to happen.

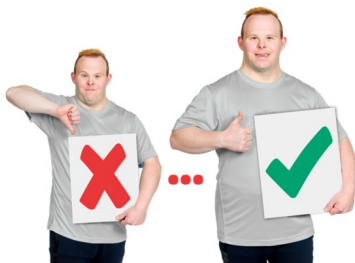


The NDIS Review was a separate group that

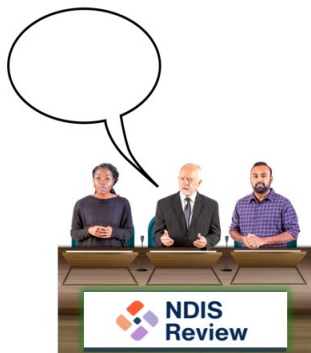
- looked closely at the NDIS
- came up with ideas to make the NDIS better



The NDIS Review talked to lots of people in the disability community to find out how the NDIS is going.



They wanted to hear people's ideas to make the NDIS better.



The NDIS Review gave 26 ideas to the government about how to make the NDIS better.



**Australian Government**

The government will need to decide if it likes the ideas from the NDIS Review.

It is starting to think about them and make some changes.



Making all the changes from the NDIS Review will take a long time.



The government wants to make some changes quickly to make the NDIS better now.

They want to start with a new law.

## Changing the NDIS law

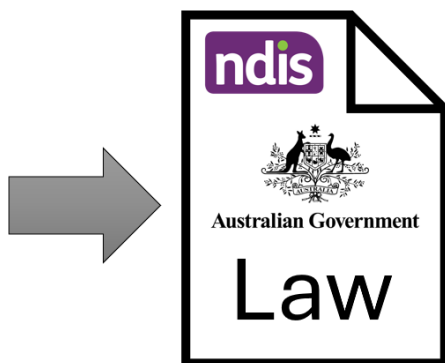


Most of Bill Shorten's speech was about a **bill** to change the law called the NDIS Act.

A **bill** is a draft of a new law.



Before a bill becomes the law the politicians in Canberra talk about what it says.



If most people agree with what the bill says then it will become a law that everyone in Australia needs to follow.



When we say bill we mean new law and not Bill Shorten!

## What are the changes?



If the bill becomes the law then there will be some big NDIS changes soon.



There are 2 groups of changes

- NDIS Review changes
- Changes to planning and services.

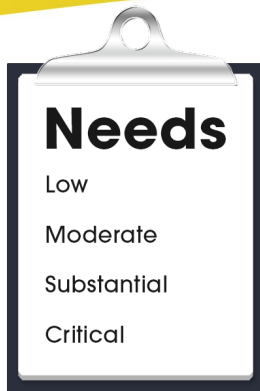
### NDIS Review changes



1. Getting onto the NDIS will not be about your diagnosis anymore.

It will be about **functional impairment**.

**Functional impairment** means the impact your disability has on your daily life.



2. When you are on the NDIS you will have a support needs assessment.

A **support needs assessment** will look at how much support you need.



3. The support needs assessment will decide how much NDIS money you get.



4. There will be rules but you will have more choice about how you spend your NDIS money.



The government needs to work out the rules before any changes happen.





There will be some time before the changes happen.



The government also needs to do more work on **foundational supports** before these 4 changes can happen.



**Foundational supports** are supports for all Australians with disability.

This means you do not have to be on the NDIS to get these supports.



States and territories will need to work together with the Australian Government on foundational supports.



## Our Group



Foundational supports are things like

- Advice and information
- Skill building support
- Employment support
- Peer support

**Peer support** is when people with disability get together to give each other advice and support.

## Changes to planning and services

The second group of changes in the bill has new rules about NDIS planning.

The new rules will say

- What you can and cannot spend NDIS money on.
- How the NDIS can find out information about people who have an NDIS plan.
- That the NDIS can make decisions about how your plan is managed if they are worried about risks.





The bill also has some changes about quality and safeguards.

Quality and safeguards means making sure service providers are

- Doing the right thing
- Keeping people safe
- Using NDIS money in the right way



There will be new rules to make sure providers that are doing the wrong thing get banned from the NDIS.

To make these new rules the government will work together with



- People with disability
- Families
- Disability organisations



The NDIS is much bigger than everyone had thought it would be.

And it keeps growing.



The bill has some new rules to try stop the NDIS from growing too fast.



The NDIS will still grow a bit but there needs to be rules so it does not get too expensive.



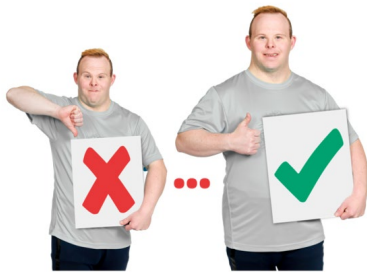
This is important so the NDIS can keep supporting people with disability now and in the future.

## What happens next?



Change can be hard and scary.

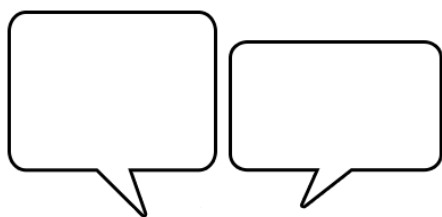
Bill Shorten said he understands lots of people feel scared or anxious about the NDIS right now.



Change needs to happen to make the NDIS better.



The NDIS needs to change so that it can keep supporting people with disability now and in the future.

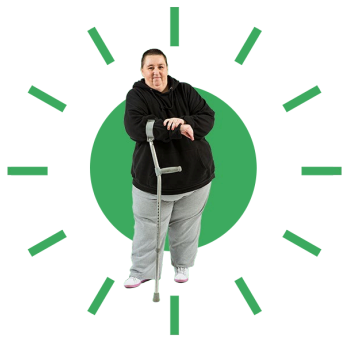


The government will keep talking to people with disability about how to make the NDIS better.



Bill Shorten said the government will do **co-design**.

**Co-design** means working together with people with disability who use the NDIS to come up with the changes.



Bill Shorten said he wants to make the NDIS better so that Australians with disability can live their best lives.



Inclusion Australia will work hard to make sure the government hears the voices of people with an intellectual disability and their families.



Get in touch with Inclusion Australia at [admin@inclusionaustralia.org.au](mailto:admin@inclusionaustralia.org.au)