Inclusion Australia

What we think about the NDIS access changes





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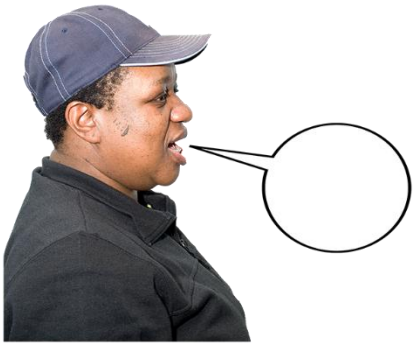
About this document

This document was written by Inclusion Australia.

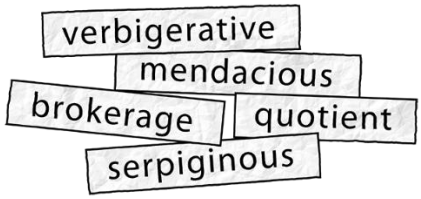
Where it says ‘we’ it means Inclusion Australia.



This is an Easy Read version of our **submission** on NDIS access changes.



A submission is when we write to the Government and tell them what we think.



Hard words are in **bold.**

We explain what they mean.



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



You can read the big version of our submission at:
https://www.inclusionaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/Inclusion-Australia-submission_NDIS-Access-Changes_2-October-2026.pdf

About our submission



In September 2026 the Australian Government asked people to tell them what they think about the changes they want to make to **NDIS access.**



NDIS access means:

- How people apply for the NDIS
- Who can get the NDIS.



To help us write our submission we looked at:

- What people have already told us about NDIS access
- What our Policy Officers with an intellectual disability think about NDIS access.



Our submission has 9 **recommendations** on what we think about the NDIS access changes.

This document talks about the main ones.

Draft rules about NDIS access



The Government has made some draft rules about how NDIS access should work.

These rules are called **guiding principles.**



We think it is important that:

- People get to see the draft rules before they become real
- The draft rules are available in ways that people can understand

  For example in Easy Read



- People are given enough time to tell the Government what they think about the draft rules
- The Government thinks about what people said when they write the final rules.



We also think there should be a rule about **supported decision making.**

Supported decision making is when someone makes their own decisions with support.



This rule should make it clear that people with disability accessing the NDIS have the right to:

- Make their own decisions
- Get information about their choices in a way that they understand
- Get good support to make decisions if they want it
- Choose who supports them to make decisions.



Evidence of disability for NDIS access

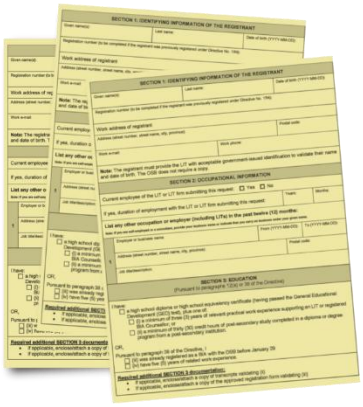


The Government must make sure that NDIS access is:

- Easy to understand
- Fair for everyone.



We think information about what **evidence** a person needs when they apply for the NDIS must be clear and easy to understand.



Evidence means proof of your disability and support needs.

For example reports from your doctor or specialists.



There should also be easier ways for people to show they have a **permanent** or **significant** disability when they apply for the NDIS.



Permanent means they will have their disability for their whole life.

Significant means their disability affects their life a lot.



When people with a permanent or significant disability apply for the NDIS they should not have to:

- Do extra tests to prove they have a permanent or significant disability
- Give lots of extra information about their disability.

Supports outside of the NDIS



Not everyone who applies for the NDIS will be able to get it.



Some people who cannot get the NDIS may be able to get supports outside of the NDIS.

These are called **foundational supports.**



If someone is told they cannot get the NDIS then the Government must give them information about foundational supports that:

- The person will be able to use
- Are close to where the person lives
- Is clear and easy to understand.

Appropriate treatments

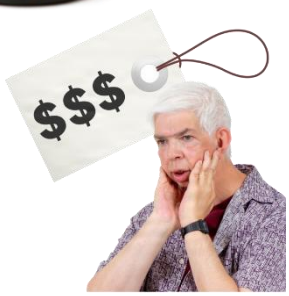


Recent changes to the NDIS law say that a person must try **all appropriate treatments** before they can apply for the NDIS.



This means that the person has tried as many ways as possible that are safe and right for them to help with their disability.





The new law says that people do not have to try treatments that:

- May be unsafe
- Are not available where they live
- Are too expensive
- Are **restrictive practices.**



Restrictive practices are things that control or stop a person from doing things.

For example:

- Locking the front door so a person cannot walk out onto the road
- Giving someone medication to stop them hurting themselves.





But the new laws are not clear on what the Government thinks are:

- Appropriate treatments
- Restrictive practices.



We think the Government must make clear rules on what treatments they think a person must try before they can apply for the NDIS.