



# GETTING ON THE NDIS GRID

**A booklet for people currently without funded disability support who may be eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.**

**To assist people and organisations to:**

- ◆ **Learn more about the NDIS and what's in it for them**
- ◆ **See if they may be eligible**
- ◆ **Find out how to access it**

## About this booklet

This booklet has some information about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (the NDIS), in particular, information about accessing the scheme. **It is for people who are supporting people with disability who currently do not get any funded disability supports, but may be eligible for the NDIS.**

## What is the NDIS?

The NDIS is a new way for people with disability to get the support they need to manage day-to-day living and to socially or economically participate in their community.

With the start of the NDIS, many people will get funding and support for the first time; others will get funding that better supports what they need to live an ordinary life.

The NDIS is

- ◆ a national scheme, so it will be the same for people all over Australia.
- ◆ designed to give people more choice and control about who, where, when and how supports are provided.
- ◆ free and doesn't affect people's Centrelink income or disability support pensions.

## How does the NDIS support people?

The NDIS will provide support that is both Reasonable and Necessary

- ✓ **Reasonable** means something that is fair
- ✓ **Necessary** is something you must have

The NDIS can help with things like support to access the community such as social, study, sporting or other interests, learning new things and new skills, assistive technologies or with support to live in your home. It is about the supports a person needs because of a disability.

The NDIS does not replace the supports people already get from mainstream services like doctors, teachers, and housing. It does not pay for everyday living costs that you would pay for yourself like food, electricity, rent or medication.

## When does it start?

The NDIS will start in the areas of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Logan, Redlands, Fraser Coast and Burnett from 1 July 2018, and Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast from 1 January 2019.

If a person meets the access requirements to become a participant of the NDIS they can register with the NDIS up to 6 months prior to the start date in their area.

## How can I access the NDIS?

To be able to access the NDIS you need to be...

- ✓ **Under 65 years of age**
- ✓ **An Australian citizen, permanent resident or have a special visa**
- ✓ **A person who has an impairment or condition that is likely to be permanent (lifelong) and requires some support to manage everyday activities.**



# What information is needed for access?

People who may be eligible (or their representative) will be asked to give a range of information, to show they meet the access requirements, and also about the type of disability they have and how it impacts upon their day to day life.

Starting to help people have this information ready in advance will assist with the access process.

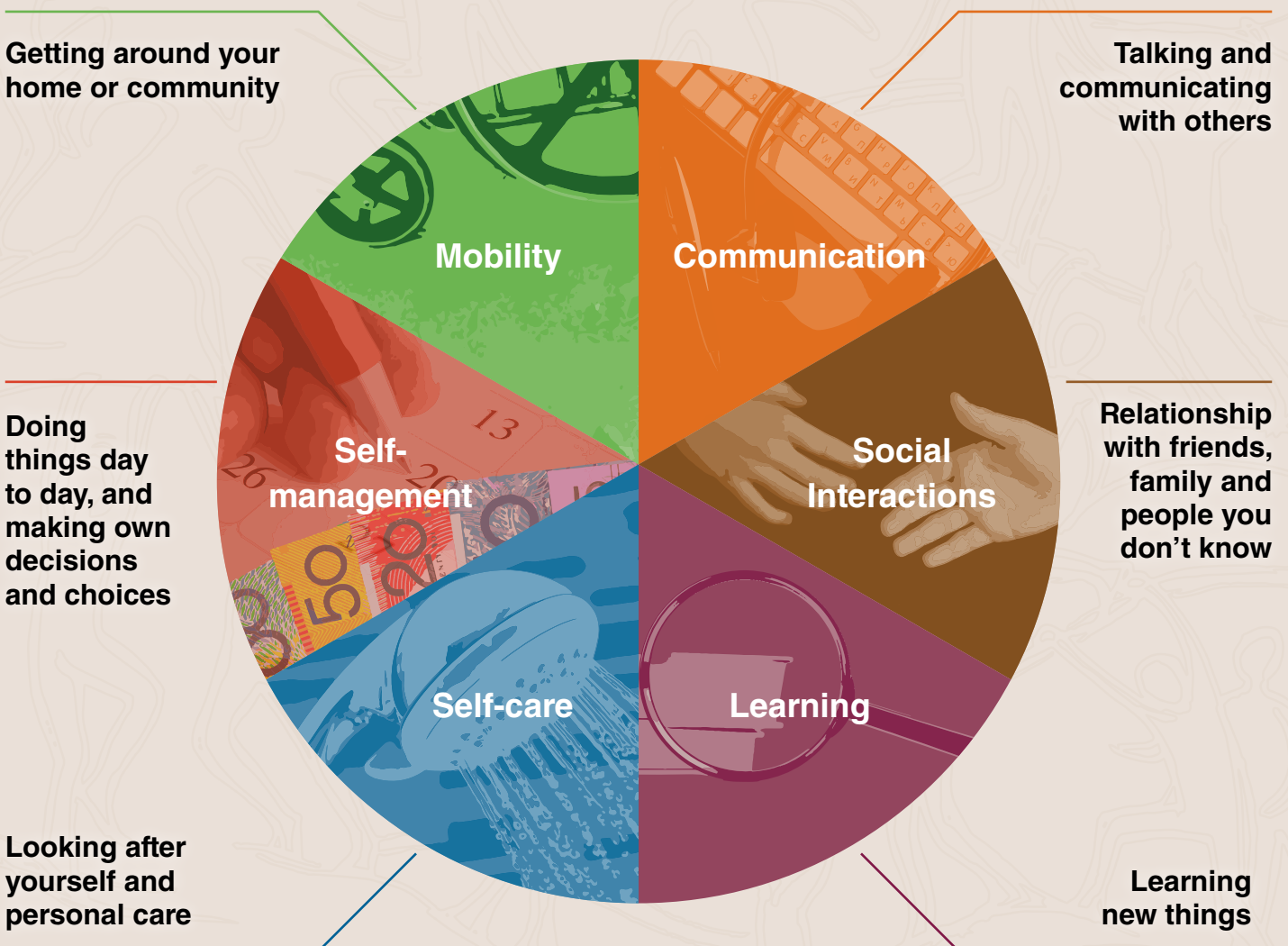
The key parts of information are:

- ✔ **Permanent disability** – evidence that the person has or likely to have a permanent disability
- ✔ **Functional impact** – evidence of the impact of the disability on the person’s day to day functioning

## Functional impact

To be able to access the NDIS, a person will need to show they have support needs in one or more of the following 6 functional areas.

To assist a person in making access, you can use the table on the following page to write down information about what needs a person has in one or more of these functional areas, what they need support with, how much support, how often, and what happens when their needs change.





# Functional Area

Area of need	Examples of what this means for person
	<p><b>Mobility and motor skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using public transport</li> <li>• Leaving the house</li> <li>• Moving around house</li> <li>• Going to shops</li> <li>• Modifications to house</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letting other people know needs and wants</li> <li>• Help to talk with doctors</li> <li>• Assistive technology</li> <li>• Following instructions or directions</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Social interaction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiating conversations</li> <li>• Social contact</li> <li>• Making and keeping friends</li> <li>• Understanding feelings and interactions</li> <li>• Talking to strangers or particular people</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning new things</li> <li>• Organising information</li> <li>• Memory and planning</li> <li>• Studying and attending courses</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Self-management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doing household jobs</li> <li>• Budgeting money</li> <li>• Problem solving things that arise</li> <li>• Making decisions</li> <li>• Keeping safe</li> <li>• Taking responsibility</li> <li>• Looking after nutrition and diet</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Self-care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking after self</li> <li>• Personal hygiene</li> <li>• Shower, dressing</li> <li>• Dental/oral hygiene</li> <li>• Medication</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>

# Support Needs

What are person's support needs?











How much support do they need?

How often?


## Make access request

If a person has needs across one or more of these functional areas, then they may be eligible for support under the NDIS.

Next steps are to make the access request:

 <b>Person currently gets disability supports</b>	 <b>Person doesn't get any disability supports</b>
 The NDIS will make contact with people who already get disability supports (Make sure service provider has person's current contact details)	 Ring the NDIS on 1800 800 110
 NDIA will make contact by phone	 Let them know the person wants to make an access request
 They will try to call 3 times, and if they can't speak to person, they will send a letter	 They will send an Access Request form to the address provided
 If person doesn't get a call, they can call NDIA on 1800 800 110	 Once the person has made contact with the NDIA they will tell them what to do next

## What a person can start to do now – collect evidence and supporting documents

The NDIA may ask the person to provide evidence of their disability and functional impact. They will let the person know what is needed. In the meantime, people can start to gather any evidence or supporting documents they already have. It is not necessary now to go and pay for new assessments as existing reports and evidence may be enough to satisfy the eligibility criteria.

Below is a list with some examples of what supporting documents may be needed to assist with peron's access request.

Type of evidence	What evidence	Examples
Evidence of disability	Diagnosis and treatments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessments or reports from treating general practitioner or treating psychiatrist.</li> <li>Hospital discharge plan that includes diagnosis.</li> </ul>
Impact of disability on daily life	How the disability impacts on your day to day life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Casenotes from a service provider</li> <li>Notes across the 6 areas in this booklet</li> <li>Health diary</li> </ul>
Functional assessments	How disability impacts on your ability to function in everyday activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports or assessments from specialist, OT, speech therapist, psychologists</li> <li>Assessment information that Centrelink is holding</li> <li>Assessment information provided to Queensland Health, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Department of Justice and Attorney General, Department of Housing</li> <li>Statement by the person, family members or carers, support workers about the functional impact of the person's disability (things they need support to do).</li> <li>Assessment information provided to or prepared by existing service providers – Partners in Recovery (PIR) or Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs)</li> <li>Other assessments</li> </ul>
Other evidence	Who they are	<p>Proof of who person is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proof of where they live – bill, tenancy agreement</li> <li>Citizenship – evidence they can live here</li> <li>Age – birth certificate, 18+ card, drivers licence</li> </ul> <p>A person can give NDIA permission to access Centrelink information if this is on file by providing CRN and the information is up to date.</p>

## What next


- Person needs to decide if the NDIS is for them
- Gather supporting evidence
- Call the NDIA on 1800 800 110 from January 2018 and make an access request
- Support the person to take supporting documents to their GP the next time they visit, as a starting point for getting documentation completed in the near future
- NDIS Local Area Coordinators can assist potential participants to complete the access request
- Encourage the person to think about their supports and what they need to achieve them
- Supports needs must relate to their disability
- Get informed by visiting the NDIS website [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) and a group of organisations are working together on the Getting on the NDIS Grid Project to help people who may not have received any disability support before or might otherwise not get the support they currently need, learn about the NDIS, what is in it for them and how it can assist people.

If you would like more information, or want to talk more about the NDIS, you can

 email us at [onthegrid@qdn.org.au](mailto:onthegrid@qdn.org.au)

 call us on **3252 8566** or **1300 363 783**

 on the net at [www.qdn.org.au](http://www.qdn.org.au)



## Our Partners



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