



NDIS Access Changes

Consultation summary

31 August 2026

About this paper

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is seeking feedback on proposed changes to how people are assessed to see if they can access the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The proposed changes aim to make access decisions clearer, fairer and more consistent. They would focus on how a person's disability affects their everyday life, rather than only on their diagnosis.

Your feedback will help the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) develop advice for the Australian Government. The TAG will provide independent, evidence-based advice to support the development of these changes to the NDIS access. It will also help make sure the views and experiences of people with disability, families, carers and the disability sector guide the changes. More information on the TAG is available on: [Technical Advisory Group \(TAG\)](#).

This paper summarises the proposed NDIS access changes and the questions we are asking. You can also read the full consultation paper, Easy Read version and Auslan version on the department's [Consultation Hub](#).

Why we are making changes

The NDIS Review found that the access process can be unclear and inconsistent. People may have different experiences when the access rules are applied. This includes rules about whether a disability is permanent and how much it affects everyday life.

The proposed changes aim to make access decisions clearer, fairer and more consistent. This would help keep the NDIS focused on people who have a permanent and significant disability and need ongoing disability supports.

What would change

We are asking for feedback on these proposed changes:

- Using a consistent assessment approach to understand how a person's disability affects their everyday life.
- How to decide whether a person's disability is permanent and whether treatment is likely to improve their ability to do everyday activities.
- How to decide whether the NDIS is the right support for a person and, where appropriate, connect them with other services.
- Making the access process easier and reducing the amount of information people with disability, families and carers need to provide.

Guiding principles

We have drafted seven principles to guide the design and delivery of the new access process. Your feedback will help us improve these principles before advice is given to the Australian Government. These are the draft principles:

- Follow the NDIS Act and respect the human rights of people with disability.
- Be guided by the lived experiences of people with disability, families and carers.
- Use reliable evidence and make consistent decisions.
- Focus on each person's needs and strengths.
- Be fair, inclusive and safe.
- Be clear, accessible and easy to use.
- Keep learning and improving.

Designing the access decision-making process

The NDIS access process can be hard to understand and use. We want the steps and decisions to be clear, fair and consistent for people with disability, families and carers.

We want to know how the access process should decide whether a person is eligible for the NDIS and whether the NDIS is the right support for them. The process must work well for people with unique needs and different backgrounds. This includes people who need support with communication, language or cultural needs, and people whose disability changes over time or involves complex support needs.

We also want to know how people could connect with other services and supports when these are more suitable for them.

Evidence requirements

People with disability, providers and disability organisations have told us that evidence requirements can be hard to understand and meet. People may also have different experiences when applying to the NDIS. We want to make the process easier, more consistent and reduce the amount of evidence people, families and carers need to provide.

We are also asking what information should be used to decide whether a disability is permanent and whether treatment is likely to improve how a person manages everyday activities.

Have your say

We welcome feedback from participants, family members, carers, providers, advocates, peak bodies and community members.

Submissions are open until 11:59 PM AEDT, **2 October 2026**.

You can give us your feedback by:

- making a written submission
- sending us a video, including Auslan
- emailing us
- requesting a phone call to share your views

You can provide feedback by answering the consultation questions below. You can answer all questions or only the questions that matter most to you.

When giving feedback, it may help to explain what works well, what is confusing, what could be improved, and how the changes may affect you or people you support.

Your feedback will help the TAG develop its advice to government about the proposed NDIS access changes.

Questions we'd like you to answer

We want your feedback on the proposed NDIS access changes. You can answer all the questions or only the ones that matter to you.

Guiding principles

1. Are these the right principles to guide the new NDIS access process?
2. Should we add, remove or change any principles?

Design of access decision-making process

3. What features would make the NDIS access process fair, clear and consistent?
4. How can we make the access process easier for people with disability, families and carers? Think about what information people need to provide, how decisions are explained and how people are connected with other supports.
5. How can we make sure the access process works well for people with unique needs and different backgrounds, including people whose disability changes over time or who have complex support needs?

Evidence requirements

6. What information should be used to decide whether a disability is permanent? What information should be used to decide whether treatment is likely to improve how a person manages everyday activities?

Contact us:

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