



OFFICIAL

# New framework planning - Plan variations and reassessments

This fact sheet explains how NDIS plans can be changed through variations or reassessments under new framework planning.



## Changing a NDIS plan

Under new framework planning a plan can be changed in two ways:

1. Plan variation – a targeted short-term change to part of a plan
2. Plan reassessment – a full review that results in a new plan

## What are NDIS plan variations and reassessments?

### What is a plan variation?

A plan variation changes part of a plan without creating a new plan.

Variations are used when:

- changes are small, targeted or short term
- support needs are already known
- the change affects only part of the plan

## **What is a plan reassessment?**

A plan reassessment is a full review of support needs that results in a new plan.

Plan reassessments are used when:

- support needs have changed significantly
- changes are ongoing
- support needs have to be reconsidered

## **When is a NDIS plan variation needed?**

Plans can be varied in a range of situations, including:

### **1. Urgent or risk-related changes**

- crisis or emergency situations
- risks to health or safety
- restoring funding after misuse

### **2. Changes based on new information**

- updated quotes or reports
- changes to supports such as assistive technology or home modifications

### **3. Other targeted funding changes**

- repairs or replacements
- small cost changes
- changes to employment supports, Specialist Disability Accommodation, Medium Term Accommodation or plan management
- adjustments linked to compensation

These changes are:

- based on evidence
- usually affect one part of the plan
- do not require a reassessment

## How are plan variation amounts worked out?

Plan variation amounts are worked out using the NDIS budget method. More can be found on the [Working out a reasonable and necessary budget factsheet](#). The NDIA will follow different steps in the budget method to calculate plan funding, depending on the reason for the variation. For example, an updated assistive technology quote would need a different variation calculation compared to crisis or emergency funding calculations.

## When is a NDIS plan reassessment needed?

A reassessment is used when:

- support needs have changed significantly, and
- those changes are ongoing.

In summary:

- NDIS plan variations adjust existing supports
- NDIS plan reassessments reconsider support needs in full

## What this means

Under new framework plans:

- plans last longer (up to five years)
- more changes are made through plan variations
- fewer plan reassessments are expected

This means participants will have more certainty and should need fewer full plan reviews.

## Where to get more information

- National Disability Insurance Agency website: [Changing your plan](#)
- Department of Health, Disability and Ageing website: [NDIS Act amendments](#)

## **Examples**

### **Plan variation**

A participant's wheelchair breaks and needs to be replaced.

The participant provides a quote and a report to the NDIA.

The plan is updated to add funding for a new wheelchair without creating a new plan.

### **Plan reassessment**

A participant's condition changes and they now need daily personal care and more support to live independently.

The participant's support needs are reviewed in full.

A new NDIS plan is created.