

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 here. 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.