



NDIS Supports Transitional Rules

Consultation summary

August 2026

About this paper

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing wants feedback on proposed changes to the NDIS Supports Transitional Rules (the Rules). These Rules explain what supports can and cannot be bought with NDIS funding.

The changes are about making the Rules easier to understand and easier to use. They are also about preparing for the new way of making NDIS plans, called new framework planning, which will start from April 2027.

This paper is a summary of the changes. You can also read a full copy of the consultation paper, including an easy read and Auslan version on our [Consultation Hub](#).

Why we are making changes

People told the department that the current Rules are hard to understand. They said there are too many support categories, some descriptions are confusing, and the replacement supports process is difficult to use.

The proposed changes aim to make the Rules simpler and clearer. They also aim to make support categories better match the way participants think about their needs, goals and plans.

What would change

The proposed changes would mean:

- The number of support categories would reduce from 36 to 18 broader categories.
- The new categories would focus on the purpose of the support, not NDIS provider registration groups.
- The same list of supports would be used across old framework planning (the current way) and new framework planning (from April 2027).
- The replacement supports process would be removed.
- Some extra items would be added to the list of things that are not NDIS supports.

New support categories

The proposed Rules would group supports into 18 broader categories. These include assistance animals, assistive technology – assets, assistive technology – other, behaviour support, disability related health supports – nursing, disability related supports – consumables, employment supports, home modifications, in-home and community supports, interpreting and translation supports, medium term accommodation, plan management, private vehicle transport, short term accommodation, specialised driver training, specialist disability accommodation, support coordination, and therapy.

The new categories will not remove current types of supports. Instead, supports would be grouped together under broader headings. For example, daily personal activities, household tasks and community participation would sit under in-home and community supports.

Flexible and stated supports

Under new framework planning NDIS budgets will have stated and flexible supports. Most supports would be flexible supports. Participants can choose which NDIS supports to buy from their flexible budget and how much to spend on each support. Stated supports means this funding can only be used for that support category.

Replacement supports

Participants, providers and disability representative organisations told us the current replacement supports process can be difficult to understand and navigate. The proposed changes to the Rules include removing the current replacement supports process. This means participants would no longer ask to replace one support with another support through this process.

A lot of current replacement support requests are for tablets, smart phones, smart watches and apps for accessibility and communication. Under new framework planning, it is proposed that these types of supports instead be included in a participant's plan where they have been determined reasonable and necessary under old framework planning, or where a participant has an assessed need in new framework planning.

Have your say

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

Submissions are open until **14 October 2026**.

You can get involved by:

- Uploading a written submission
- Answering the consultation questions online
- Submitting a video response (including Auslan)
- Requesting a phone call with us
- Emailing us directly: NDISConsultations@health.gov.au

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 shape the final design of the NDIS Supports Transitional Rules.

Questions we'd like you to answer

We would like your feedback on the proposed changes to NDIS Supports Rules. We want to know:

- Are the proposed support categories clear?
- Are there areas where further explanation, examples or guidance would be helpful?
- Are there particular support types where more guidance may be needed?
- Are there any practical issues, or unintended impacts that need to be considered?

Contact us

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