



# New Framework Planning Rules

## Consultation summary

August 2026

## About this paper

The Australian Parliament made changes to the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (NDIS Act) in 2024 to enable the start of a new way of making NDIS plans. This is called [new framework planning](#). To make this happen, some existing NDIS rules will be updated, and new NDIS rules will be made.

We want your feedback on these rules before final decisions are made. This paper is a summary of the changes being considered. You can also read a full copy of the [consultation paper](#) for more details. Easy read and Auslan versions are also available on our [Consultation Hub](#). The consultation questions in this paper are areas where feedback can make a difference now.

## What has happened so far?

There will be [eight new NDIS rules](#) to enable new framework planning. The Department began [consulting with the disability sector](#) about this in November and December 2025. Four rules were drafted and were subject to [public consultation between January and March 2026](#). These rules are: Notice of Impairment, Notice to have a New Framework Plan, New Framework Spending, and Stated Supports. We published a report on [what we heard](#) at this consultation.

## What is this consultation about?

The remaining four new NDIS rules are the focus of this public consultation.

These rules are about:

- how a participant's disability support needs will be assessed
- how reasonable and necessary budgets will be developed
- how a participant can use their plan
- how a new framework plan can be changed

## Why we are making changes

Changes are being made to NDIS planning to make it more consistent, fairer and easier to understand. The aim is to focus more on each participant's everyday life, goals and disability support needs.

New framework planning is designed to give participants more flexibility and choice in how they use their funding. For many participants, funding may sit in a flexible budget, rather than being tied to stated supports. The new approach will make NDIS funding decisions clearer and support the long-term future of the NDIS.

## What would change

### Support needs assessments

A support needs assessment is the new framework planning meeting. It will help the NDIA understand what disability supports a participant needs. A trained assessor will talk with each participant about their daily life, what support they need and what is important to them. A family member, nominee, advocate or other support person can also attend the meeting.

The assessment will include a core needs assessment, a questionnaire about personal and environmental circumstances, and if needed, targeted assessments for some supports.

Targeted assessments may be needed for things like assistive technology, home modifications, disability-related health supports, specialist disability accommodation or behaviour supports.

After the support needs assessment, the participant will receive a support needs assessment report. If they have concerns about the report or the support needs assessment experience, the NDIA will talk with them about whether another assessment is needed.

## How budgets are worked out

The NDIA will use information from the support needs assessment report to work out a participant's budget using the new NDIS rules. The budget will include flexible and stated supports funding.

- Flexible funding – participants can choose which NDIS supports to buy from this budget and how much to spend, giving participants more choice and control.
- Stated supports funding – must be used for the specific stated support, such as home modifications or some assistive technology.

Funding will be grouped into 18 categories of NDIS supports. Some funding amounts may be based on support hours, some may be based on quotes or benchmarks, and some may be based on rules. Adjustments may be made in some situations, such as when a participant lives in a rural or remote area.

Once the participant receives their plan, they will have the opportunity for a plan implementation meeting if they choose to. In this meeting, the NDIA will go through the plan with the participant, explain the details and answer questions the participant has.

While the budget method is used to work out how much funding a participant receives in their plan, it doesn't tell participants how to use their funding. Flexible funding can be spent on NDIS supports to meet a participant's disability support needs.

## Plan variations and reassessments

Plans may be updated in two main ways.

- A plan variation changes part of a plan. This may be used for urgent or short-term changes, repairs, replacements or small funding changes.
- A plan reassessment creates a new plan. This may be used when a participant's support needs have changed a lot or the change is ongoing.

Most plan updates are expected to happen through a plan variation rather than a full reassessment. This should make it faster and easier to update plans when things change.

## NDIS supports rules

The NDIS supports rules will be updated so they work with new framework planning. The proposed changes include clearer support categories, clearer rules about what the NDIS will not fund, and clearer information about where participants can buy NDIS supports.

Some replacement supports will be removed because common replacement items, such as smart devices and communication apps, will be included as NDIS supports.

## 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](mailto:NDISConsultations@health.gov.au)

You can provide feedback by answering the consultation questions.

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 how new framework planning will work.

There are 5 areas of information in the consultation paper that we are asking questions about. You can answer all questions or only the questions that matter most to you. More information about these questions is in the full copy of the [consultation paper](#).

## Consultation questions

### Support needs assessment rules

- What parts of the support needs assessment process need more explanation?
- What questions and feedback do you have about the draft support needs assessment report template?
- In what circumstances do you think a replacement assessment should be arranged? Are there additional circumstances that should be considered?

### Budget method rules

- Further information and details about the budget method calculations will be provided later in 2026 after more testing is done. What information would help participants understand how a budget is calculated?
- What questions and feedback do you have about the draft participant plan template?

### Plan variation and reassessment rules

- What feedback and questions do you have about plan variations and reassessments?

### NDIS supports rules

- What feedback do you have about changes to NDIS supports for old and new framework planning?
- What impacts do you think will be experienced as a result of removing replacement supports? What items or services will no longer be available?

## General Questions

From the information provided in this consultation paper:

- What information was most useful?
- What questions do you still have?
- What would help people with disability better understand the NDIS new framework planning rules?
- What communication formats would make the information more accessible?
- What should we focus on in future communication products?

## Contact us

Email: [NDISConsultations@health.gov.au](mailto:NDISConsultations@health.gov.au)

Phone: 1800 020 103

Mail: Department of Health, Disability and Ageing  
GPO Box 9848  
Canberra ACT 2601