



Disability Rights Advocacy Service Inc

Applying for the NDIS Fact Sheet Two: Eligibility Checklist

Please note that this document is for medical practitioners.

Before assisting a patient with an Access Request to join the NDIS, the NDIS recommends completing this 6-point checklist first, so you can assess their suitability for the Scheme.

1. Are they under 65 years of age, an Australia citizen* and live in Australia?

*Or hold a Permanent OR Protected Special Category Visa

Refer children under 7 years old with developmental delay or disability to an NDIS **early childhood partner** for assessment. They will support the family to apply for the NDIS if appropriate. Refer patients over the age of 65 who are looking for disability services and support for the first time to **My Aged Care**.

2. Do they have an impairment (physical, intellectual, cognitive, neurological, visual, hearing or psychosocial) resulting in disability that is, or is likely to be, permanent (i.e. lifelong)?

3. Is the patient's ability to perform everyday activities substantially reduced because of this impairment?

To meet the NDIS disability requirements, the patient must be able to demonstrate that they are significantly incapacitated in one or more of the following 'life areas':



Mobility and motor skills

e.g. moving about the home or community, getting in and out of bed or a chair, fine motor skills, gross motor skills†



Learning

e.g. understanding and remembering information, learning new skills, practicing and using new skills



Communication

e.g. being understood in spoken, written or sign language, understanding others and expressing needs and wants by gesture and speech (age-appropriate)



Self-care

e.g. showering/bathing, getting dressed, eating or preparing meals, caring for own health



Social interaction

e.g. making and keeping friends, interacting with peers or the wider community and coping with related feelings and emotions



Self-management

e.g. doing daily jobs, making decisions, problem-solving and managing money

†Only includes issues that cannot be solved by commonly used items such as glasses, walking sticks, non-slip bathmats, grab rails and hand-rails installed at stairs.



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4. Does the loss or reduction in function restrict the patient's ability to participate in work/study, engage with peers and/or interact with their wider community?

The disability must also have a clear social and/or economic impact on the patient's life.

5. Is the patient likely to require the Scheme's ongoing support?

The NDIS takes a lifetime approach. Patients seeking access to the NDIS are expected to require the Scheme's support for life. Hence, the need to demonstrate permanency of disability.

6. Does the patient require disability supports that fall under the remit of the NDIS?

Not all types of support required by a person living with a disability fall under the responsibility of the NDIS. Supports funded by the NDIS generally include those that assist with activities of daily living and/or improve a patient's ability to function independently, e.g. special equipment, physical aids, prosthetics, assistive technology, home modifications and personal care attendants. If you are uncertain if the required supports are funded by the NDIS, refer the patient to a **Local Area Coordinator** for further advice before proceeding with an Access Request, as other health/public services may be more appropriate.

If you can tick all the above boxes, your patient is likely to meet the NDIS eligibility criteria, as long as adequate supporting information is provided in the Access Request Form. If your patient has a condition, on the below link, you only need to provide information about its functional impact unless specifically requested.

[List A: Conditions that are likely to meet the disability requirements | NDIS](#)

If an impairment is permanent but its functional impact fluctuates and/or is still in its early stages (e.g. multiple sclerosis), your patient may meet the **Early Intervention Requirements**. If this is your intention, you should clearly state this on the Access Request Form.