



Australian Government
Productivity Commission

Inquiry into Disability Care and Support

Easy English version

July 2011

A better way of helping people with a disability

The main ideas from the Final Report

About this document



This information is written in an easy-to-read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Some words are written in **green**. We have explained what the green words mean. There is a list of these words starting on page 23.



This Easy Read document is a summary of a large report.

The large report is about 1,000 pages long.

In this Easy English document, we have included some of the information from the full report. However, we can't include everything because the full report is so long.



You can find the full report on our website.

Please visit:

www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disability-support/report










You can phone us on **(02) 6240 3221** if you have any questions.



You can send an email to:

disability-support@pc.gov.au

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Thanks for your ideas



This report was written by the Productivity Commission.

We are part of the Australian Government.

In 2010, the Australian Government asked us to find out more about disability care and support.

We asked people if they had any ideas about how we can improve things for people with a disability.

A lot of people told us their ideas.

Some people wrote to us.

Others came to meetings where they could share their ideas.



We want to say thanks to everyone who shared their ideas with us.

Some of the things people told us



Many people told us about problems with the way things work in the disability care and support **system** at the moment.

Some of the problems they told us about are:



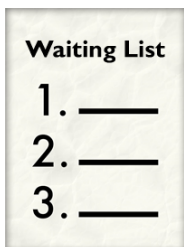
- People with a disability can't always get the support they need.



- There are a lot of different ways of doing things in different parts of Australia.



- There is not enough money available to meet people's needs.



- There are long waiting lists.



- Sometimes, people using the system are confused. It's difficult for them to know where to go to get the services they need.



- People are worried about the future. They don't know if the support they get now will still be available later in their life.



- There is not enough information.



- There is not enough **choice**.



- When people don't get the support they need, they feel sad, lonely, worried and isolated.

What are we planning to do?



We have a plan for improving disability services.

The plan is called the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

On the next few pages, we will explain what's in the plan.

What is the NDIS?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) would help people with a **permanent** and **significant** disability.

A permanent disability is one that will last for a very long time.

We think that someone with a significant disability is a person who needs support from the government in order to get by in everyday life.



The NDIS would be a new part of the Australian Government.



It would be paid for by the Government.

We think that the NDIS will cost the Government about \$13.5 billion per year.

This is double the current amount that is spent on disability services.

The NDIS would have 3 main jobs:

1. Providing support to people if they need it.

Everyone would know that they could get help if they need it. For example, the NDIS would help a baby who is born with a significant disability. Or, the NDIS would help a person who gets a significant disability later in life.

Everyone in Australia would benefit from knowing they could get support. So, in this way, the NDIS would benefit about 22 million people.

2. Providing information and helping people find the right services.

This would benefit about 4 million people with disability and their carers.

3. Offering support to people who have a permanent and significant disability.

This would include working out what people's needs are.

This would benefit about 410,000 people.



Who will get support?



If someone has a **permanent** and **significant** disability, the NDIS will pay for the support the person needs.

People who would get support from the NDIS include:



- People who need support to **communicate**, move around or do things like go to the toilet, get dressed or have a shower or bath.



- People who need support to get by in everyday life. For example, they might need help with making plans or decisions. This includes people who have an intellectual disability, such as Down syndrome.



- People who will need less help later if we give them help now. For example, if we help a blind person by giving them a guide dog, they will need less support to do everyday things.

What kind of support would people receive?

Everyone is different and we each have different needs. Some people need more support than others.



The NDIS will work out what kind of support people need. The NDIS would listen to people and ask questions about what they need. This would be called an **assessment**.

The support that people receive would be based on their needs. The NDIS would pay for things that are:

- practical
- useful
- essential.

It wouldn't just pay for things that are nice to have.

**I want to choose
where I live....**



However, an important goal of the NDIS would be to offer people more **choice** about things like:

- where they live
- who they have helping them
- activities and other day to day things.

The NDIS would support people to plan their life for the next year or so.

But it would also help people to plan what they want over their whole life.

This would include things like getting a job and living the way they want to.



What would the NDIS provide?

The NDIS would provide a range of services and supports. The following is a list of things we think the NDIS should provide.



- ✓ Aids and appliances, such as wheelchairs and communication aids.



- ✓ Changes to homes and cars so that they suit the needs of people with a disability.



- ✓ Personal care for people who need help with:



- getting dressed



- going to the toilet, taking a shower or having a bath



- eating and drinking



- moving around



- taking medicines



- looking after their teeth



- getting exercise



- some types of nursing care.



- ✓ Different ways for people to take part in the **community**. This might include going to day services, learning a new skill or having fun with friends.



- ✓ **Respite** services, including:

- having help at home
- staying in a group home
- staying with a different family for a while
- taking a break.



- ✓ Help for people who live in group homes.



- ✓ Support for some people who live on their own. The NDIS would help people with a significant disability who live **independently**.

For example, the NDIS could provide help with:

- cooking and cleaning
- managing money
- going shopping
- getting to activities.



- ✓ Help for people to get the transport services they need. For example, the NDIS could provide taxi vouchers for some people with a disability to use.



- ✓ Help for some people who want to start looking for work.



- ✓ Access to therapies and treatment, such as physiotherapy and counselling.



- ✓ **Local area coordinators** and other support workers who would help people to find and use the services they need.

- ✓ Support at different stages in a person's life.

For example, when a person finishes school and starts looking for work.

I used to go to school... ... now I go to work.



- ✓ Support in a crisis or emergency. Sometimes people need extra help if someone dies or if something unexpected happens.



- ✓ Guide dogs and assistance dogs. The NDIS would cover the cost of getting a dog, learning how to use the dog and taking care of the dog if it gets sick.

Some types of support would not be included in the NDIS.



For example, health services will continue to be provided by the health **system**.



Schooling will be provided by the education system.



And transport will be provided by the transport system.



If the NDIS did not provide the kind of support someone needed, the NDIS would **refer** people to the right services.

How will the NDIS make things better?



The NDIS would have a lot of benefits for people with a disability.



Everyone would know that they will be able to get support if they need it.



Everyone who needs support would be able to get it, no matter where they live. If someone moved to a different part of Australia, they would be able to continue receiving support.



Supports would be offered to suit the needs of each person. This means that the NDIS would give people more **choice**. People with a disability would have more say about where they live, who helps them and what kind of help they receive.



People with a disability would be able to make their own choices about how money is spent on services and support. This is called **self-directed funding**.

There will be rules about how the money is spent.

People wouldn't have to manage their own funding if they didn't want to. But they'd still have more choice about who provides their support.



People with a disability wouldn't have to wait as long to receive support or get the equipment they need.



The system would be easier to use.



There would be support at different stages of life and when people's lives change.



People with disabilities, and their families and carers, would feel more confident about the future.



More information would be available. This will help people find out about the NDIS and the disability supports and services that are available.

Emily's story

This is a story about how the NDIS would work for a young woman named Emily.



Emily is 27 years old. She has Down syndrome. She lives at home with her Mum, Kathy.

They live in a suburb that is quite a way from the city.

Emily went to high school but she hasn't done any further training. She doesn't have a job.



Most of the time, Emily can take care of herself. But sometimes she forgets things like appointments.

She doesn't feel very confident about catching public transport.

And she doesn't really like the day centre she goes to. She finds the activities boring and she feels that the people there order her around.

Emily loves to act and she would like to take drama classes.

She would also like to have a job so she can earn more money and meet other people.



Emily and her mother contact the NDIS. They make an appointment with their **local area coordinator**. This is a person who helps them use the NDIS and who knows their community well.

The NDIS does an **assessment** of Emily's needs.

Emily and her Mum develop a plan. They get help from the NDIS to do this.

Emily starts receiving some new types of support, including:

- Work training
- Less time at the day centre
- A weekly visit by a support person who helps to organise Emily's appointments.
- Some help learning about using public transport.
- Some help using a mobile phone so that Emily can call someone if she gets lost or confused.



Emily also starts doing some acting classes and some swimming lessons. She enjoys doing this a lot more than spending time at the day centre.

At first Emily and Kathy manage all the money that Emily needs for services and support. But this is a bit hard for them, so they ask for help with this.



Once Emily gets used to using her new plan, she begins to feel a lot more confident and she wants to start looking for work.

When we hope things will happen

There is a lot of work to be done before the NDIS can begin.



We gave the final report to the Australian Government at the end of July 2011.



The Government will decide if it likes the ideas in the final report.



We hope that the NDIS will begin in 2014.

To start with, we would plan to use the NDIS in a few parts of Australia.



By mid-2019, we would hope to be using the NDIS all around the country.

Word list



Assessment

Working out what kind of support people need. This includes listening to people and asking questions about what they need.



Choice

Being able to pick what you want.



Communicate

The way that we share information and ideas with each other. This may include talking or writing things down. We also use tools to help us to communicate, including computers and telephones.



Community

The community is the place where you live. It is not just your home. It is outside your home as well. It includes the people who live in your area.



Independent

Looking after yourself. Someone who lives independently might not need a lot of support.



Local area coordinator

Someone who helps people use the NDIS and who knows your community well.

NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme. This is a plan to improve disability care and support. You can find out more about the NDIS on page 9.

Permanent

Something that lasts for a very long time. It is not temporary.



Refer

In disability care and support, to refer means to help someone find the services they need.



Respite

When carers have a short break from looking after people with a disability. It is also when people with a disability have a break from their regular carer.



Self-directed funding

Money provided by the Government based on a person's needs. The person gets to choose how the money is spent.

Significant

Something that is important or large, or that makes a difference.

We think that someone with a significant disability is a person who requires support from the government in order to get by in everyday life.

System

An organised way of working.



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