

Ask for a social worker in your NDIS plan

Allied health professionals supporting you through life

Social workers are:

- allied health professionals
- skilled in assessment and therapeutic support
- expert in social functioning and capacity building
- navigators of complex and challenging situations
- upholders of ethics, values and standards.

Social workers can:

- conduct functional assessments and provide capacity building supports
- support you to improve how you interact, communicate and form relationships
- help you to navigate complex situations, handle crises & resolve conflicts
- assist you in strengthening your support systems and understanding your rights.

How is social work different?

- Social work focuses on the **individual AND the system**
- Addresses barriers – such as navigating systems and enhancing social connection
- Sees **you** as an individual within your entire environment - including your family, school, workplace, association with government and community services including the health care system, Centrelink, family services and the justice system.

Can I ask for social work in my plan?

100% yes

- The NDIS values the expertise of social workers
- Social workers have their own line-item numbers and are included in the [NDIS Our Guidelines](#) [Therapy supports](#)
- You need to tell your planner 'why' you want social work included in your plan.

What do I say to my planner?

"I would like to have social work functioning in my plan because it provides me with assistance in improving my NDIS plan social functioning goals. A social worker can support me to..."

Q: What if they say social work is a duplication of service or others can do it?

Let your planner know that social workers are trained in both capacity building supports and systems-based work. They understand how your environment, relationships and past experiences affect your functioning – and will help you to develop strategies that work for you to achieve your goals.

Speak with a social worker who can support. Many planners don't understand the role of a social worker and need some guidance on our role.

For more information visit [our website](#). Or to find a social worker, [click here](#).

An AASW NDIS Social Worker fact sheet for NDIS planners, plan reviewers and local area coordinators is also available [here](#).