



Independent assessments

Getting ready for next year

Easy Read guide



ndis

[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

How to use this guide



The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) wrote this guide. When you see the word 'we', it means the NDIA.



We have written this guide in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

We have written some words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 22.



This Easy Read guide is a summary of a page on our website.



You can find the Independent Assessment page on **our website**.



You can ask for help to read this guide.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What's in this guide?

What do we want to do?	4
Why do we want to make these changes?	6
What is an independent assessor?	8
How will independent assessments work?	11
If you want to apply for the NDIS	15
If you already take part in the NDIS	17
What if you don't agree with your independent assessment?	19
More information	20
Word list	22

What do we want to do?



We want to make the NDIS easier to use.



We also want to make sure it is fair.



As part of this, we are going to start using independent assessments.

Assessments are how we work out:



- how your disability affects your life



- what supports you need from the NDIS.

An assessment is **independent** when it is done by someone who:



- doesn't already know you
- isn't the healthcare professional you usually see.

We explain what a healthcare professional is on pages 8–9.



We want to start using independent assessments in 2021.

We want to start using independent assessments when we:



- work out who can take part in the NDIS
- review NDIS plans.



We want to talk to you about these changes now so you know what we plan to do.



On the following pages, we explain how independent assessments will work.

Why do we want to make these changes?



Independent assessments will focus on your **capacity**.

Your capacity is:



- your ability to do something
- the skills you have
- how you manage everyday life.

Independent assessments will:



- give you all the information about your capacity you need to apply for the NDIS



- help us work out what supports you need.



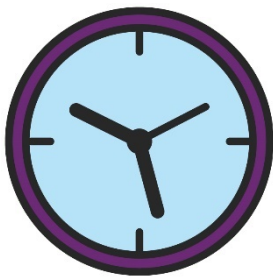
This means we can spend more time talking about how to use your NDIS plan.



Independent assessments will help you give information to us:

- quickly
- easily.

This will save you:



- time



- money.

What is an independent assessor?

An independent assessor is someone who:

NDIS



- doesn't work for the NDIA



- understands the needs of people with disability



- does your independent assessment with you.

They are qualified healthcare professionals such as:



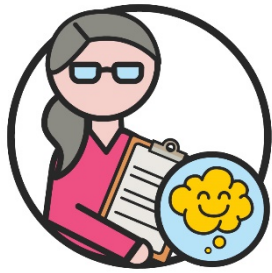
- occupational therapists – people who help you move and use your body



- physiotherapists – people who help you with ways to move your body



- speech pathologists – people who help you with talking and communicating



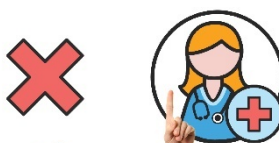
- psychologists – people who help you with the way you think and feel.



These people can help us work out what supports you might need.



Not any healthcare professional can do an independent assessment.



For example, you can't ask the doctor you usually see to do your independent assessment.



We are making a list of people who will do independent assessments.



When we finish making the list, we will tell everyone which organisations will do the independent assessments.

How will independent assessments work?



If you need an independent assessment, we will connect you with an independent assessor.



They will make a time to talk to you.

You can choose to do your independent assessment:



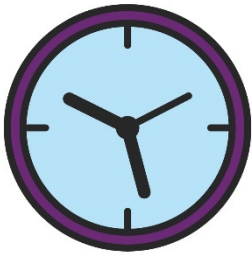
- at a place that suits you



- over a video call if you have a device with a camera.

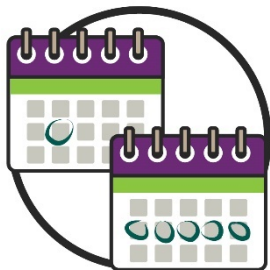


Independent assessments will be free.



They will usually take 1-4 hours.

1-4 hours



You can choose to do it:

- all at once
- over a few days.



You can have someone with you, such as a family member or support worker.

What will happen during the independent assessment?



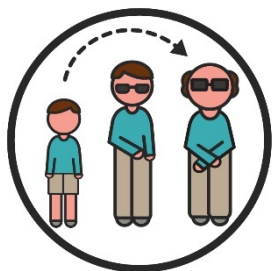
Your independent assessor will ask you questions about:

- your life
- what is important to you.



They might ask to see you do some everyday tasks.

They will also work through some activities with you based on your:



- age



- disability.

What will happen after the independent assessment?



We will get the results of the independent assessment when it's done.



You will get a copy of your independent assessment too.

You will talk about your independent assessment in your planning meeting with your:



- **NDIA Planner** – someone who makes new plans



- **Local Area Coordinator** – someone who helps people with disability find and use services and supports.

We call them LACs.



They will use your independent assessment to help work out what:

- supports you need
- will go in your plan.

If you want to apply for the NDIS



From 2021, independent assessments will start to be part of applying for the NDIS.



If you're a new **participant**, you still apply for the NDIS the same way as before.



NDIS participants are people with disability who get NDIS supports and services.



Once you apply for the NDIS, we will work out if you can take part.



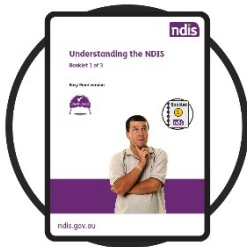
If someone can take part in the NDIS, we say that they are **eligible**.



But not everyone is eligible for the NDIS.



We will put you in touch with an independent assessor after you apply for the NDIS.



You can find more information in our *Understanding the NDIS* booklet.



This booklet explains:

- who can take part in the NDIS
- how to apply for the NDIS
- what happens next.



You can find an Easy Read version of this booklet on our website at www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/booklets-and-factsheets

If you already take part in the NDIS



If you already take part in the NDIS, you have a plan.



By the end of 2021, independent assessments will be a part of reviewing plans.

We might ask you to do an independent assessment at important points in your life, such as when:



- you want to start working
- something in your life changes
- you ask for a plan review
- you have good supports and want a longer plan.



The NDIA will pay for your independent assessment.



Once you have done your independent assessment, we will:

- contact you
- tell you what happens next.

What if you don't agree with your independent assessment?

If you don't agree with our decisions, like whether you are eligible for the NDIS, you can contact your:



- LAC



- NDIA Planner.



They can explain how to ask for a review.



If you don't agree with our review, you can ask the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) to review the decision.



You can contact the AAT on their website.

www.aat.gov.au

More information



You can find out more about independent assessments on our website.

www.ndis.gov.au



If you would like more information about what is in this guide, you can contact us.



www.ndis.gov.au



1800 800 110



Follow us on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/NDISAus



Follow us on Twitter.

[@NDIS](https://twitter.com/NDIS)

Support to talk to us



You can talk to us online using our webchat feature.

www.ndis.gov.au/webchat/start

If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

131 450

If you have a speech or hearing impairment, you can call:



TTY

1800 555 677



Speak and Listen

1800 555 727



National Relay Service

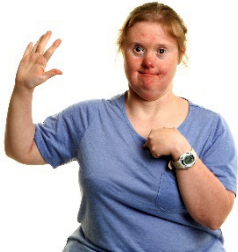
133 677

www.relayservice.gov.au

Word list

Assessments

Assessments are the way we work out:



- how your disability affects your life



- what supports you need from the NDIS.

Capacity

Your capacity is:



- your ability to do something
- the skills you have
- how you manage everyday life.



Eligible

If someone can take part in the NDIS, we say that they are eligible.



Independent

An assessment is independent when it is done by someone who:

- doesn't already know you
- isn't the healthcare professional you usually see.



Local Area Coordinator

A Local Area Coordinator is someone who helps people with disability find and use services and supports.

We call them LACs.



NDIA Planner

An NDIA Planner is someone who makes new plans.



Participant

NDIS participants are people with disability who get NDIS supports and services.



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images.

The images may not be reused without permission.

For any enquiries about the images, please visit

www.informationaccessgroup.com. Quote job number 3711.



[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)