



→ What is the NDIS?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme provides Australians under 65 who have a permanent and significant disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to enjoy an ordinary life.

→ Who is eligible?

People with a terminal illness under 65 may be eligible if they have a permanent and significant disability caused by their illness (for example people with Motor Neurone Disease or a person who has suffered a permanent disability as a result of their cancer treatment).

→ What is funded?

The NDIS funds reasonable and necessary supports that are necessary for the person to communicate, interact socially, learn, be mobile, care for or manage themselves.

Since October 2019, the NDIS will fund some health supports if they are a regular part of the participant's life and a result of their disability. This may include:

- dysphagia supports
- diabetic management supports
- continence supports
- wound and pressure care supports
- respiratory supports
- nutrition supports

→ How to access the NDIS

The person / carer needs to get an Access Request form from the Local Area Coordinator, Early Childhood Early Intervention partner (if the child is under 7), the local NDIS office or call 1800 800 110.

The GP (and sometimes specialist) needs to provide information that enables the NDIS to understand the impact of the condition on the person's life. It is necessary to describe a person's permanent impairment and the related activity limitations which directly affect participation in daily, community and economic life.

It is vital that the written reports and assessments explicitly and consistently describe:

- how each required support meets all of the NDIS '*reasonable and necessary*' criteria
- why support is deemed to be a '*reasonable and necessary*' response to the functional impairment(s)
- in what way each support will contribute to the person achieving the goals set out in their plan



Issues for palliative care

Most of the clients in palliative care are aged over 65 so they do not qualify for the NDIS. However, they may qualify for an aged care package instead.

For people who may qualify, it can be difficult to ascertain if an impairment caused by an illness is temporary or if it can be defined as a disability. The people making these assessments are not health professionals, so it is possible that they may need guidance about the particular disability and the needs of the client. It is important to write the application well.

mycarespace.com.au has developed a guide to assist writing a successful application

The other issue is that the NDIS process is not fast and plans do not consider deterioration. Clients and carers might need assistance with the NDIS application as it can be a lengthy process. It is advantageous for expert attendance at meetings when planning goals and funding to provide best outcomes and advocacy.

Should circumstances change rapidly, timelines are lengthy or funding is delayed, you can intervene by emailing the following address to alert the NDIS that the needs are urgent.

Send your email with the subject heading: '*Urgent action required*' followed by the relevant subject details to your regional office: AT.VICEAST@ndis.gov.au or AT.VICWEST@ndis.gov.au or AT.VICSOUTH@ndis.gov.au



Further Informion

- www.ndis.gov.au
- www.summerfoundation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/getting-the-language-right-web.pdf
- <https://www.disabilityservicesconsulting.com.au/ndis-resource-hub>

