

The role of the OOHC caseworker: NDIS Eligibility and Access



A child or young person's representative

FACS or NGO casework staff will be the 'child's representative' where Parental Responsibility (PR) is allocated to the Minister.

Children or young people in Supported OOHC or those under Guardianship Orders (under the *Children and Young Person's (Care and Protection) Act 1998*) will be represented by the person/s who hold Parental Responsibility.



Shared Parental Responsibility

The child's representative will be determined by the specific aspects of PR each party is responsible for and which aspect(s) of PR may have the most relevance to the child or young person's NDIS plan.

If the aspects of PR are of equal significance to the NDIS plan, the Minister and the other person/s will be the child's representative jointly.



How do existing ADHC clients access the NDIS?

The NDIA requires the consent of each person prior to their transition.

FACS has provided consent for all children and young people in PR to the Minister to transition to the NDIS.

The NDIA will then contact Managers Casework to confirm eligibility and arrange a planning meeting.



Access for new entrants

There is some capacity for people who are not currently receiving disability supports to access the NDIS during transition.

The application for the NDIS is called an Access Request.

OOHC casework staff will play a key role in identifying when an Access Request should be made on behalf of a child or young person in OOHC.



When to consider disability or delay for children or young people

- ✓ Upon commencing work with a child or young person
- ✓ Upon entry to OOHC
- ✓ During health and behavioural planning process
- ✓ During plan reviews



Identifying disability in children and young people

Make any necessary referrals to a medical or health practitioner for diagnosis.

FACS Caseworkers

- Contact your local FACS psychologist to assess if a disability exists.
- Psychological services can also provide advice on the level of support a child or young person may need.



NGO Caseworkers

- Utilise psychological resources available to you to help identify disability and determine the needs of children or young people in your care.

NDIS Access Checklist

1. Do you have Australian residency?

To access the NDIS you must live in Australia and be:

- an Australian citizen OR
- a permanent resident OR
- hold a [Protected Special Category Visa](#)

Yes. Go to Question 2.

No. You may be able to [access other supports.](#)

To check if a person may be eligible to access supports through the NDIS, use the NDIS Access Checklist available on the website www.ndis.gov.au

2. Are you under 65 years old?

To access the NDIS you must be aged under 65 years.

In some locations, you need to be a certain age to access the NDIS during the trial period.

Yes. Go to Question 3.

No. You may be able to [access other supports.](#)

NDIS Access Checklist (cont'd)

3. Do you live in an area where the NDIS is available?

To access the NDIS right now, you must live in an NDIS area on a designated date. In some of these areas, you also need to be a certain age to access the Scheme.

Find out if the NDIS is available in your area:

- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [New South Wales](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Tasmania](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Western Australia](#)

Yes. Go to Question 4.

No. You will need to wait until the NDIS is rolling out in your area.

NDIS Access Checklist (cont'd)

4. Do you usually need support from a person or equipment to do everyday things for yourself because of an impairment or condition that is likely to be permanent?

To meet the NDIS disability rules you need to have an impairment or condition that is likely to be permanent (lifelong) and that stops you from doing everyday things by yourself.

The following questions may help you decide if your answer is 'yes'.

Do you usually need support from a person or assistive equipment so you can:

- understand and be understood by other people?
- make and keep friends and cope with feelings and emotions?
- understand, remember and learn new things?
- get out of bed and move around the home and outside the home?
- take a bath or shower, dress and eat?
- do daily jobs, handle money and make decisions?

Yes. Call the NDIS on 1800 800 110 if you have any questions or to ask for an access request form.

No. Go to question 5.

NDIS Access Checklist (cont'd)

5. Do you need some supports now to reduce your support needs in the future?

To meet the NDIS early intervention rules, you need to

- have an impairment or condition that is likely to be permanent (lifelong); or
- be a child under 6 years of age with a developmental delay and the delay means you usually need more help with your self-care, communication, learning or motor skills than another child of the same age.

Early intervention supports provided by the NDIS are those not provided by any other services such as health and education.

The following questions may help you decide if your answer is 'yes'.

Would early intervention supports:

- reduce the impact of your impairment or condition or developmental delay?
- stop the impact of your impairment or condition from getting worse?
- strengthen your informal supports, such as helping a carer to keep supporting you?

Yes. Call the NDIA on 1800 800 110 if you have any questions or to ask for an access request form.

No. You may be able to [access other supports](#).

Access Requests

Only available from the NDIA

- by phone or visiting an office

Only available in hard copy

Targeted to a specific applicant

Casework staff complete the consent section

Casework staff return the completed form with evidence to the NDIA



Evidencing an Access Request

Helps NDIA to understand:

- what the disability is
- how long it will last
- the impact on the child or young person's life



Can use psychologist to review Access Request and evidence prior to lodging

Urgent support needs – what to do

Submit Access Request Form to NDIA marked as urgent.

The NDIA will be the point of contact for unplanned or priority access requests from people with disability and their families.



Ineligible for NDIS - requires additional support

NDIA can provide information and referral to existing mainstream and community supports

During transition this support can be accessed through:

- Local Area Coordinators (LACs)
- Ability Links

Towards full scheme, Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) will be established



Entry to OOHC with NDIS plan in place

Where possible, speak to parents regarding the supports and services accessed prior to entering care.

Notifying the NDIA of a change in the child or young person's circumstances.

Review the plan to ensure it is suitable to current need and circumstances.



Questions? Further Information?



Ask questions by emailing us

safeforlifereform@facs.nsw.gov.au

Guidelines available at www.facs.nsw.gov.au/ndis