

# PATIENTS WITH A DISABILITY AND THE NDIS

To be eligible for the NDIS your patient needs to answer **YES** to all of the following questions.

*Start here*

**NO** Is the patient an Australian citizen, a permanent resident or holder of a Protected Special Category Visa?

**YES**

**NO** Is the patient's impairment\* or condition likely to be **permanent**?  
\*An impairment that varies in intensity but is chronic in nature may still be considered permanent.

**YES**

**NO** Does the patient have an impairment that:

- prevents them from participating effectively even with assistance or aides; or
- substantially reduces their ability to participate effectively in activities or perform tasks unless they:
  - have assistance from other people, or
  - have assistive technology or equipment; or
- affects their capacity to be able to work or be active in their community?

**YES**

More information for non-eligible patients can be found by searching **Infoqore** Australia's largest disability directory. Or call Council for Intellectual Disability on **1800 424 065**



Has the family/carer engaged with the NDIS and an Early Childhood Early Intervention Partner (ECEI)?

**NO**

Refer to relevant ECEI Partner in the area. For a list of these partners go to [cid.org.au/gp](http://cid.org.au/gp). Click on the '0-6 ECEI Information' tab.



**YES**

Provide necessary support for the **Access Request Form (ARF)** or the Supporting Evidence Form.

You may be asked to provide supporting evidence for the patient's ARF if they are deemed eligible.



Does the patient know about the NDIS?

**YES**

Do they have a plan?

**NO**

**YES**

Their plan will be reviewed every 1-2 years.

Refer them to the NDIS to obtain an Access Request Form (ARF) **1800 800 110** [ndis.gov.au](http://ndis.gov.au)

**NO**

The ARF and/or Supporting Evidence Form can be filled in by any health professional a patient sees.

If the patient has a health professional better placed to report on their functional abilities, the GP may only be asked to provide reports related to the diagnosis of their disability/ies, including relevant documents/reports that complement and strengthen these findings.

For more info on this and guides for how to fill in the ARF go to [cid.org.au/gp](http://cid.org.au/gp). Click on the 'ARF Support and NDIS information' tab.



Are they already an NDIS participant?

**YES**

Do they want to stay on the NDIS?

**YES**

NDIS participants can choose to remain on the NDIS when they turn 65 (or 50 for First Nations People).

**NO**

Refer patient to My Aged Care [myagedcare.gov.au](http://myagedcare.gov.au)

Their plan will be reviewed every 1-2 years.

## Completing the Access Request Form (ARF) / Supporting Evidence Form

The information you include on the ARF or Supporting Evidence Form will influence the level of support your patient receives.

Some things to consider are:

- The level of supports your patient is currently receiving. Does your patient need:
  - to increase the amount of formal supports? Is their current informal support appropriate? Informal support is support from family and friends. Formal support is support provided by a paid service provider.
  - support to remember appointments, shower and dress, interact with their community, and read and understand information?
- Consider what supports are needed for your patient to have more good days and fewer bad days. For example, a person with autism or psychosocial disability may have periods that are challenging and impact on daily routines – it is vital to build supports in for these times.

Find the ARF form [here](#).

## My Health Matters Folder

**Behaviour has meaning.** For people with an intellectual disability (PWID) communication and being understood can mean the difference between life and death. For example, being treated for meningitis or being sent home with an official diagnosis of 'having a temper tantrum'.

Research shows that 38 percent of deaths of PWID are potentially avoidable. Their life expectancy is up to 27 years less than the general population\*.

My Health Matters is a folder co-designed **by** PWID **for** PWID to use when attending medical appointments. The folder is designed to be beneficial for both health professionals and PWID. It will improve the chances of PWID being understood, being seen for their abilities, and having a chance to explain behaviours that would otherwise be labelled as 'challenging'.

Folders are free and available at:  
[nswcid.org.au/myhealthmatters](http://nswcid.org.au/myhealthmatters)



\*2017 UNSW, 3DN. Author: Julian Trollor

## National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Roles

**Local Area Coordinators (LAC)** are partners with the NDIA that operate at a community level.

The role of an LAC is to:

- organise the planning meeting to gather information to create the participant's NDIS plan.
- provide capacity building support to implement and review all supports in a participant's plan.

**Support Coordination** is not included in all NDIS plans. It may need to be requested if the participant:

- requires assistance to connect to and coordinate informal, mainstream and funded supports.
- has an intellectual or psychosocial disability or is a person who needs help advocating for themselves.

## NDIS Reviews

### Internal Review:

An Internal Review can be made:

- if the participant is not happy with their plan.
- within 3 months from the date of the plan being issued.

If the participant disagrees with the internal review decision, an **External Review Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)**.

### Plan Reassessment:

Scheduled by the NDIA every 1-2 years.

But a participant can request a **Plan Reassessment**: at any time if they:

- feel their plan is not meeting their needs.
- have a significant change of circumstance such as moving house, losing informal supports or a reduction in their functionality.

## Council for Intellectual Disability (CID)

The Council for Intellectual Disability works with and for people with disability to ensure the community protects their rights, includes everyone and supports people well.

[cid.org.au](http://cid.org.au)  
1800 424 065

