

Fact Sheet June 2017

How new participants can access the NDIS



Key points

- The capacity for new participants to enter the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in NSW is expanding.
- From July 2017 to June 2018 there is capacity for close to 25,000 new participants to enter the NDIS across NSW.
- The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) will determine access to the NDIS within 28 days of receipt of an access request. If a person is in immediate need of assistance, and they do not currently have support, then there is capacity for their entry to the NDIS to be prioritised.
- A mainstream service can support a person to make an access request and when their NDIS plan is being developed.

Who is considered a new participant?

A 'new participant' is someone who wants to apply to receive disability supports under the NDIS, but who is not currently receiving, or scheduled to receive a specialist disability support that is funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services.

From July 2017 to June 2018 there is capacity for close to 25,000 new participants to enter the NDIS.

How do new participants apply to the NDIS?

Potential new participants who live anywhere in NSW can make an access request now by:

- contacting the NDIA National Access Team on 1800 800 110
- completing a contact form at [ndis.gov.au/form/contact-form](https://www.ndis.gov.au/form/contact-form)

The NDIA will determine access to the NDIS within 28 days of receipt of an access request. Once access is determined, an NDIS representative will inform the new participant when they can commence development of their NDIS plan.

How is new participant plan development prioritised?

NSW and the Commonwealth have agreed that priority for plan development in the NDIS will be given to people in need of urgent and immediate support. A key priority will be where there are risks of gaps in support or the likely potential for a significant escalation of supports should immediate support not be provided.

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Guidance examples for prioritised plan development include people who:

- have complex support needs and receive supports from multiple government agencies
- are inappropriately accommodated - hospital beds, leaving care, correctional facilities, homelessness risk, mental health facilities, Younger People in Residential Aged Care
- are transitioning from Commonwealth programs such as Helping Children with Autism and Better Start programs
- are children aged 0 to 6 years who will enter through the Early Childhood Early Intervention Gateway
- have moderate or high needs in other identified Commonwealth programs.

What is the role of the NDIA?

The NDIA will manage access requests that come from potential new participants, including those whose access request is being supported by government agencies

The NDIA will make the final decision around new participants accessing the NDIS. They will carefully manage the intake of new participants to minimise impact upon existing disability clients scheduled to phase into the NDIS at each stage of the transition.

