

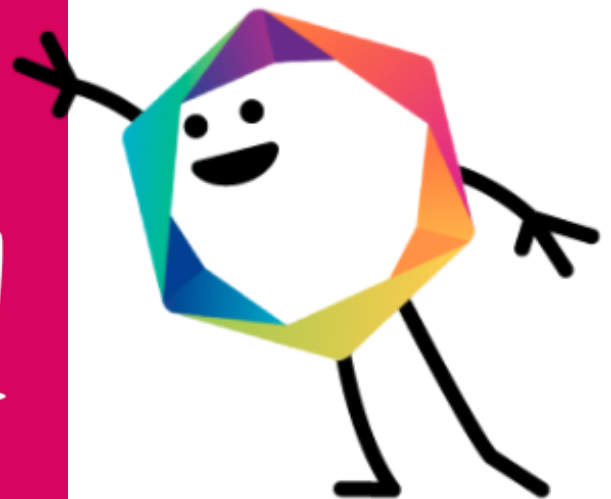


Liberty Disability Services

People. Options. Power

Recent NDIS changes:

What you need to know, and how we can support you



Easy read document

The NDIS is changing.

The Australian Government and the NDIA have said that changes will make the NDIS:

- Fairer
- More clear
- Better for the future

These changes may affect how people:

- access funding
- use their plans
- get support



For many people, these changes may feel stressful.

You might be asking:

- Will my NDIS plan change?
- Do I need to do anything right now?
- Will my funding change?
- Will my supports be affected?

The good news is:

For many participants, there is nothing you need to do right now.

Current NDIS plans will continue until changes apply to you.

To all our participants, families and carers: we're here for you.

We will do our best to:

- support you
- answer your questions
- and keep you informed.

Here is what we know about the upcoming changes so far:

1. A new way of planning is coming

One of the biggest changes is a new way of making NDIS plans.

The new way of planning aims to:

- Make budgets work better
- Focus more on participants' needs
- Reduce the need for expensive reports
- Make plans clearer and more flexible
- Have trained assessors spend more time getting to know the participant.

This new way of planning includes a
'Support Needs Assessment'

A 'Support Needs Assessment' is where a
trained assessor talks with participants
about:

- Daily life
- Goals
- Skills
- Support needs

This will help decide funding.



The NDIS says:

- Plans will still be approved by trained staff, not automated systems.
- Participants can still ask for reviews if they're unhappy with decisions.

Has this new way of planning started yet?

No.

It was going to start in 2026 but has been delayed. The new planning is now expected to begin from April 2027.

For now, most participants will not have changes and current plans will continue.

2. Clearer information about NDIS eligibility

New participants are now getting more information about why they are eligible for the NDIS.

This includes information about 'impairment categories'

These categories include:

- Physical disability
- Neurological disability
- Cognitive disability
- Psychosocial disability
- Sensory disability

This change aims to make the NDIS system easier to understand.

Current participants do not need to do anything right now.

The NDIA says people will be told before changes affect them.

3. Funding periods are changing how budgets work

Another change is funding periods. Funding periods aim to help participants spread funding across their plan.

This will reduce spending funds too quickly.

Funding periods might be:

- 1 month
- 3 months
- 6 months
- 12 months

Many participants may start with 3-month funding periods. Unused funding can roll over into the next funding period.

This means participants might need to:

- Plan supports more carefully
- Think about budgeting over the whole plan period
- Talk with providers and support coordinators more

Funding periods can feel confusing, but having the right support team can help.

4. Changes for children continue

The Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) approach helps families get support for their child with disability or developmental delay.

The ECEI used to support children aged 7 or younger.

It now supports children up to 9 years old.

But, children accessing support through ECEI without a formal diagnosis may lose access at age 7.

This means children who don't have a formal diagnosis and get support from the ECEI might see changes in their supports when they turn 7.

A new program called 'Thriving Kids' is planned to begin in October 2026.

Thriving Kids aims to support children with:

- Developmental delay
- Autism
- Low to moderate support needs

Children with high support needs may still be eligible for the NDIS.

These changes are still being planned.

Families with children should keep checking the NDIS website for updates.

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/11085-thriving-kids>

So, what should participants do now?

For many people:

You do not need to do anything right now.

But it may help to:

- Stay updated on NDIS news
- Check your current goals and supports
- Think about if your goals and supports still suit you
- Keep records of changes in your life
- Keep records of changes in your support needs
- Talk to your support coordinator or provider if you're unsure
- Ask questions

If you have a big change in your life, your plan may need a variation or reassessment.

If you are a Liberty participant, your support coordinator can help with this.

If not, the NDIS explains how to do this here:

<https://ndis.gov.au/participants/changing-your-plan/types-plan-changes/guide-changing-your-plan>

How Liberty Disability Services can support you

We know that NDIS plans can be hard to understand. These new changes might make you feel unsure.

Our team is here to help you:

- Understand NDIS changes
- Look for options
- Work out funding and plans
- Find the right support
- Work towards your goals

You do not have to manage these changes alone.

The NDIS will continue to change, but having trusted support around you can make things feel easier.

If you have questions, please ask us.

Our team is happy to talk about these changes and help you understand.

Call (03) 52 75 86 27

Ask for Kathie or Elle

(Directors at Liberty Disability Services)



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