

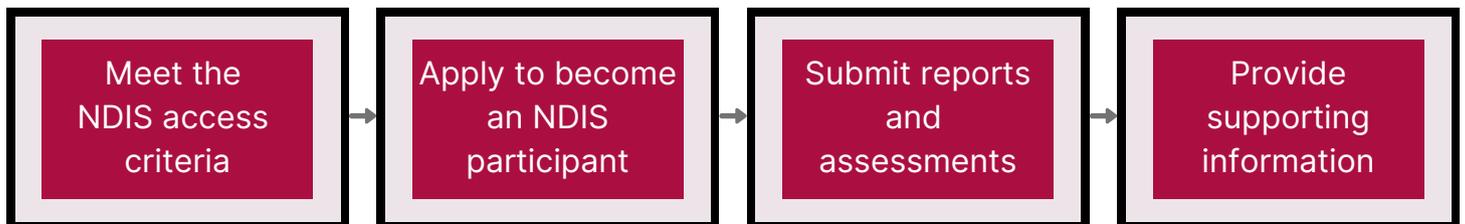
The NDIS can seem overwhelming at times. SWAN has developed a series of fact sheets to assist our families:

- Becoming an NDIS participant
- Background to a planning meeting
- Preparing for your child's NDIS planning meeting
- The planning meeting
- Useful tips



Becoming an NDIS participant

To access the NDIS there are certain requirements you have to meet and processes you have to follow. We know sometimes it can be difficult to access the scheme when you have a child with an undiagnosed or rare genetic condition.



a) Meet the NDIS access criteria

Your SWAN child will need to be an Australian resident and have a permanent disability which impacts their daily life and substantially reduces their functional capacity. Their disability must be attributed to one or more intellectual, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairments or to one or more impairments attributable to a psychiatric condition. Or your child will need to meet the early intervention requirements.

The early intervention pathway requires a child to present with developmental delay or identify as having an intellectual, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairment that is most likely to be permanent. There are some other criteria around becoming a participant, but it is most likely that if your child has disability as part of their genetic condition, they will qualify for the scheme.

b) Apply to become an NDIS participant

You can make a request over the phone or download a request form from the NDIS website and return it by email.

c) Submit reports and assessments

The NDIS needs supporting information about your child's developmental delay or disability and how it impacts their mobility, communication, social interaction, learning, self-care and/or ability to self manage, to ensure your child meets the schemes accessibility criteria.

Submit as many reports and assessments as you can that provide evidence that your child has disability, together with your NDIS access request form, so the NDIS can gain an understanding of your child and their support needs. These may include educational reports such as IQ assessments, therapist reports, and health practitioners reports.

You may like to include your own report/letter condition-specific "plain English" summary about your child's undiagnosed or rare genetic condition. Writing the dot points of the medical symptoms which relate to the disability, e.g. non-verbal, incontinent etc. is a good way to give the NDIS an overview of your child's needs for support.

d) Provide supporting information from health professionals

If you can, have your child's paediatrician or clinician complete their section of the access request form. A general practitioner can also complete this section about how your child's global delay or disability impacts their:

- Mobility
- Communication
- Social interaction

- Learning
- Self-care
- Self-manage

You may like to ask your supporting health professional if they can include a section in their letter/report about how your child's medical condition manifests as disability, e.g. low muscle tone, difficulty walking etc.

References and further reading

The Access Request form is available to download from the NDIS website:
<https://www.ndis.gov.au/how-apply-ndis/what-access-request-form#access-request-form>

Accessing the NDIS

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis>

National Disability Insurance Scheme (Becoming a Participant) Rules 2016 – Part 6/6.2

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2017C00121/Download>



Disclaimer

The information in our fact sheet series is correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of writing. Please note that NDIS information is subject to change, including without notice, and SWAN Australia cannot be held accountable for any misguided or false information. We encourage you to do your own planning and research.

Planning for your child's NDIS meeting, using the advice reflected in our fact sheet series is what SWAN Australia considers important when preparing for your child's NDIS planning meeting and is independent of the NDIA's views.