

# Is your patient eligible for the NDIS?

## 6-POINT CHECKLIST

Before assisting a patient with an Access Request to join the NDIS, we recommend completing this 6-point checklist first, so you can assess their suitability for the Scheme.

### 1. Are they <65 years old, an Australian citizen\* and reside in Australia?

\*Or hold a Permanent OR Protected Special Category Visa

Refer children under 7 years old with developmental delay or disability to an NDIS **early childhood partner** for assessment. They will support the family to apply for the NDIS if appropriate. Refer patients ≥ 65 years who are looking for disability services and support for the first time to **My Aged Care**.

### 2. Do they have an impairment (physical, intellectual, cognitive, neurological, visual, hearing or psychosocial) resulting in disability that is, or is likely to be, permanent (i.e. lifelong)?

If more than one permanent, disabling condition, consider the next four questions in terms of the impairment that has the greatest impact on the patient's day-to-day life.

### 3. Is the patient's ability to perform everyday activities substantially reduced as a result of this impairment?

To meet the NDIS disability requirement, the patient must be able to demonstrate that they are significantly incapacitated in one or more of the following 'life areas':



#### Mobility and motor skills

e.g. moving about the home or community, getting in and out of bed or a chair, fine motor skills, gross motor skills†



#### Learning

e.g. understanding and remembering information, learning new skills, practicing and using new skills



#### Communication

e.g. being understood in spoken, written or sign language, understanding others and expressing needs and wants by gesture and speech (age-appropriate)



#### Self-care

e.g. showering/bathing, getting dressed, eating or preparing meals, caring for own health



#### Social interaction

e.g. making and keeping friends, interacting with peers or the wider community and coping with related feelings and emotions



#### Self-management

e.g. doing daily jobs, making decisions, problem-solving and managing money

†Only includes issues that cannot be solved by commonly used items such as glasses, walking sticks, non-slip bathmats, grab rails and hand-rails installed at stairs.

**4. Does the loss or reduction in function restrict the patient's ability to participate in work/study, engage with peers and/or interact with their wider community?**

The disability must also have a clear social and/or economic impact on the patient's life.

**5. Is the patient likely to require the Scheme's ongoing support?**

The NDIS takes a lifetime approach. Patients seeking access to the NDIS are expected to require the Scheme's support for life. Hence, the need to demonstrate permanency of disability.

**6. Does the patient require disability supports that fall under the remit of the NDIS?**

Not all types of support required by a person living with a disability fall under the responsibility of the NDIS. Supports funded by the NDIS generally include those that assist with activities of daily living and/or improve a patient's ability to function independently, e.g. special equipment, physical aids, prosthetics, assistive technology, home modifications and personal care attendants. If you are uncertain if the required supports are funded by the NDIS, refer the patient to a **Local Area Coordinator** for further advice before proceeding with an Access Request, as other health/public services may be more appropriate.

If you can tick all the above boxes, your patient is likely to meet the NDIS eligibility criteria, as long as adequate supporting information is provided in the Access Request Form.

If your patient has a **List A condition**, you only need to provide evidence of the condition. You do not have to provide further information about its functional impact unless specifically requested.

If an impairment is permanent but its functional impact fluctuates and/or is still in its early stages (e.g. multiple sclerosis), your patient may meet the **early intervention requirements**. If this is your intention, you should clearly state this on the Access Request Form.

**For more information please contact:**

NDIS Contact Centre  
Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm  
(local time)  
Phone 1800 800 110  
Email enquiries@ndis.gov.au

**Use the following links to direct patients to their closest Local Area Coordinator or Early Childhood Partner:**

<a href="#">Northern Territory</a>	<a href="#">Queensland</a>	<a href="#">Victoria</a>
<a href="#">ACT</a>	<a href="#">South Australia</a>	<a href="#">Western Australia</a>
<a href="#">New South Wales</a>	<a href="#">Tasmania</a>	