# Health services and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

## How they will work together

### Easy Read version

## How to use this document

The Australian Government wrote this document.

When you see the word ‘we’, it means the Australian Government.

We have written this information in an easy to read way.

We have written some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 9.

This Easy Read document is a summary of another document.

You can find the other document on our website at [www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers-programs-services-government-international-disability-reform-council/communique-28-june-2019](https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers-programs-services-government-international-disability-reform-council/communique-28-june-2019)

You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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## Health services and the NDIS

**NDIS participants** are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.

We make sure NDIS participants are at the centre of every decision we make about their support.

There are some health supports you can pay for with your NDIS funding.

From 1 October 2019, the NDIS will fund health supports:

* you need because of your disability
* that help you live your daily life.

## Which health supports will NDIS funding pay for?

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) runs the NDIS.

The NDIA will look closely at what you need when they decide if NDIS funding will pay for your health supports.

Your NDIS funding might pay for these health supports:

* planning, therapy and care for dysphagia – you have trouble eating, drinking or swallowing
* planning and care for diabetes – your body has problems because of how much sugar is in your blood
* planning, care and things you need to use for continence problems – weeing, pooing or using the toilet
* things you need to look after wounds – parts of your body that have been hurt
* things you need to help you with your breathing
* planning, care and support you need to help you with the way you eat or the food you need
* looking after your feet and the way you walk
* managing epilepsy – a problem that affects the way your brain and   
  nerves work.

## Which health supports won’t NDIS funding pay for?

Your NDIS funding won’t pay for these health supports:

* working out what health problems you have and how to treat them
* treating health problems that don’t affect your daily life
* treatment, care or surgery you need if you get very sick
* treatment, care or surgery you need if you are badly injured
* treatment or care you need for a **life limiting illness** – a health problem or illness that will shorten or end your life
* items or services paid for by Medicare
* medicines the Australian Government pays for with the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

## When will NDIS funding start paying for health supports?

NDIS funding will start paying for health supports for NDIS participants from 1 October 2019.

The NDIA will work together with state and territory governments to make sure things go well.

Until then, you can get the health supports you need through the health care system in your state or territory.

If you already have health supports in your NDIS plan, the NDIS will still pay for them.

## What are concurrent supports?

You might get some supports with your NDIS funding while you are getting other supports from a health service.

We call these **concurrent supports**.

For example, you might go to hospital for surgery.

While you’re in hospital you might keep using some of your   
NDIS supports.

## What are self-care supports?

Your NDIS funding might pay for **self-care supports**.

You use self-care supports when you need help to manage a health problem you have.

If you didn’t have a disability, you might be able to manage your health on your own.

Your NDIS funding might pay for self-care supports you need because of your disability, such as:

* support to manage health problems that you could manage on your own if you didn’t have a disability

## care you need from a health care worker.

## Health problems or illnesses that will end your life

**Palliative care** is support you get when you have a life limiting illness.

Your NDIS funding won’t pay for palliative care.

The health care system pays for palliative care.

Your NDIS funding might pay for supports that you get at the same time as your palliative care.

## The supports in your NDIS plan

We want to make sure your NDIS funding pays for supports that:

* you really need
* are safe
* are good quality
* give value for money.

The NDIA thinks about these things when they decide which supports to:

* pay for
* put in your plan.

## Other supports you already get

When you get an NDIS plan, the NDIA thinks about the support you already get from:

* your family
* carers
* your friends
* other people in your community.

We call these **informal supports**.

We will look at what each NDIS participant needs and work out:

* what informal supports they use
* what other supports they need.

## Word list

**Concurrent supports**

When you get some supports with your NDIS funding while you are getting other supports from a health service.

**Informal supports**

The support you already get from:

* your family
* carers
* your friends
* other people in your community.

**Life limiting illness**

A health problem or illness that will shorten or end your life.

**NDIS participants**

People with disability who take part in the NDIS.

**Palliative care**

Support you get when you have a life limiting illness.

**Self-care supports**

You use self-care supports when you need help to manage a health problem you have.

The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document.

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