

NDIS Amendment Bill

OVERVIEW OF CHANGES

On 19 August 2026, the Australian Parliament passed the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026 (NDIS Amendment Bill).

The Governor-General signed the new law on Thursday 20 August 2026. Changes to the NDIS will start from Thursday 27 August 2026.

MS Australia Advocacy

As the national peak body for MS, we engage in ongoing advocacy work related to the NDIS on behalf of, and for the benefit of all Australians living with MS.

MS Australia made a submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee to outline our concerns about the NDIS Amendment Bill including the impact of people living with MS and other neurological conditions. **You can read our submission [here](#).**

MS Australia was also invited to give evidence to the Committee public hearing on 31 July 2026. The **hearing can be watched [here](#)** (from 15:20).

MS Australia will continue to advocate on behalf of people living with MS for improvements to the NDIS and we will continue to provide updates on any changes to the NDIS as they are rolled out over the next three years.

What do the NDIS changes mean for people living with MS?

Some of the changes outlined in the NDIS Amendment Bill commenced on 27 August, and others will be implemented over the next two years. In some instances, there is limited details on how a change will be implemented.

This will be outlined in NDIS rules that have not yet been developed at this stage, however, consultation is currently underway for the development of some of these rules (see details below).



Changes from 27 August 2026

NDIS plan reassessments

Previously, NDIS participants could request a plan reassessment at any time. Under the new changes from 27 August, NDIS participants can only request a reassessment if there's a **significant and ongoing change** to:

- their functional capacity and support needs; or
- their living, education, work or informal support arrangements.

This request can only be made by the participant or their nominee.

Participants cannot request a change for temporary injuries/illnesses, temporary changes to care or living arrangements or if they have run out of funding and their support needs have not significantly changed.

The timeframe for the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to make a decision on a reassessment request has been extended from 21 to 90 days. The NDIA may also decide to move a participant to a new framework plan.

If participants want to request a minor change or correction to their plan that fits within their current package of NDIS supports, they must complete a **[plan variation](#)**.

Learn more about plan reassessments [here](#).

The government is currently seeking input on the new Plan variation and reassessment rules until Wednesday 14 October. Learn more about the consultation and how to provide input [here](#). For more detailed information, read the [factsheet](#) or the [easy read guide](#). MS Australia plans to make a submission.

Record keeping requirements

Under new recording keeping requirements, participants must keep records of supports and payments for three years and nominees must keep them for five years.

This helps make sure claims can be verified and payments made correctly.

Learn more about record keeping [here](#).

NDIS pricing decisions

The Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme will have the power to reduce funding for some types of supports in NDIS plans. This is called a 'support determination'. A determination applies to a group or category of supports; it does not give the Minister responsibility for setting the funding in every individual plan.

Support Determinations can only apply to old framework plans (the type of plans that NDIS participants have now). They will not apply to the new Framework Plans that will be rolled out beginning in April 2027.

The NDIA will be responsible for providing advice to the Minister for the purpose of making a pricing determination. This will be done through the existing Annual Pricing Review process.

MS Australia engages every year in the NDIS Annual Pricing Review and has been advocating for improved NDIS pricing to better match the costs of delivering high quality supports to people living with disability. You can read our submission to the 2025-26 NDIS pricing review **[here](#)**.

Automated administrative action

The NDIA will be able to use computer systems to automate some administrative actions, including claims and payment processing. Decisions that are complex, discretionary or require judgement are still required to be made by people.

To date, there is no further information on how this change will be applied, but the NDIA is required to publish details of how and where automated systems are used.

Information gathering powers and civil penalties

The NDIA will have stronger compliance, enforcement and information gathering powers to tackle fraud and non-compliance and respond faster to suspicious behaviour. Participants may be asked to provide information, and a penalty will be applied if they do not comply.



Changes from October 2026

Support determinations

New support determinations will be made by the Minister to reduce the funding available for two groups of supports as follows:

- a **50 per cent reduction** in budget allocations for Social, Civic and Community Participation supports
- a **10 per cent reduction** in budget allocations for Capacity Building Daily Activities

These budgets will be progressively reset as participants' plans are reassessed or renewed. These percentages relate to participant's total budget allocation, not the amount of their budget allocation that they currently use.

There has been a provision made for high support needs participants who require continuous 24-hour care to meet their disability-related care needs. If these participants are impacted by a support determination, they can apply for the equivalent funding to be restored to their daily living, home and living, or another support group prescribed by the Minister. Funding cannot be restored to social, civic and community participation, or to capacity building daily activities.

Important: The Ministerial determination specifying which participants will be considered 'high support needs participants' has not yet been released. Until that determination is made, it remains unclear whether eligibility will include people whose assessments demonstrate a need for continuous 24-hour disability-related care where a substantial proportion of that care is provided by informal supports, or whether eligibility will be limited to participants receiving continuous 24-hour paid NDIS-funded support.

Plan suspensions

The NDIA will have the ability to suspend plans if a participant doesn't respond to requests for information. They are required to make 'reasonable attempts' to contact a participant and ask for the information. 'Reasonable attempts' mean they must attempt to contact a participant, their nominee or authorised representative - at least 5 times over an extended period.



Changes from December 2026

Claiming timeframes

From 1 December 2026 all NDIS related claims must be submitted within 90 days of delivering a support.



Changes from February 2027

Plan renewals

When a plan is due to be reassessed, it will either be reassessed by an NDIA planner or a new plan will be created with the same supports as in the old plan. This is called a 'plan renewal' and it will replace the current process of 'plan continuations'.

Unspent funds from the previous plan won't be rolled over to the renewed plan. The renewed plan will be at the same level for which the participant was assessed, adjusted for current prices.

Reasonable and necessary supports

The NDIA will introduce new criteria to consider what are reasonable and necessary supports to fund in new participants' plans. These new criteria will be progressively applied to current participants when their plans will be reassessed.

Considerations under the new criteria will include:

- What support it is reasonable to expect families, informal supports and communities to provide,
- Value for money, and
- Whether a support is likely to be effective and beneficial



Changes from April 2027

The NDIA will begin to roll out the new way of NDIS planning. This will include the introduction of a new support needs assessment. The assessment is currently being developed by the NDIA with the University of Melbourne and Centre for Disability Studies.

Learn more about the new way of NDIS planning [here](#).

The government is currently seeking input on the new NDIS Support needs assessment rules, NDIS supports rules and NDIS budget method rules until Wednesday 14 October. Learn more about the consultation and how to provide input [here](#). For more detailed information read:

- Support needs assessment [factsheet](#) or [easy read guide](#)
- Budget method [factsheet](#) or [easy read guide](#)
- NDIS supports [factsheet](#) or [easy read guide](#)

If participants would like to help test the new way of planning, they can sign up at [Participant First](#). Participants will be paid for their time, and the testing will have no impact on their current plan.



Changes from July 2027

Mandatory registration requirements for NDIA providers will be expanded to include providers who deliver personal care, daily living supports, and supports provided in closed settings.



Changes from October 2027

A panel of plan management providers will be established. Participants will be supported to transition to a provider on the panel over 6 months.

As of late August 2026, no information on how this panel will be established has been shared.



Changes from January 2028

There will be changes to accessing the NDIS for new applicants and existing participants when they are reassessed over the next three years. The changes include:

- **Functional capacity assessments:** decisions based on a new standardised, evidence-based assessment of functional capacity as informed by the [Technical Advisory Group](#).
- **Permanent Disability:** a requirement that an impairment must be permanent or likely to be permanent, including that a person has undertaken all appropriate treatment. This is defined as treatment that is evidence-based, available in Australia, and reliably expected to improve, reverse or alleviate the impairment. There is an exception where treatment cannot be pursued for valid medical reasons.
- **Other systems:** consideration of whether a person is covered by a compensation scheme or any other groups as determined by the Minister with state and territory agreement.

The government is currently seeking input on the proposed changes to how people are assessed to see if they can access the NDIS. Learn more about the consultation and how to provide input [here](#).



Changes from July 2028

There will be a new commissioned support coordination and connection function.

To date there are no further details on how these services will be commissioned.

Member Organisation NDIS Services

Our State and Territory Member Organisations are registered NDIS providers that deliver a range of NDIS services for people living with MS and other neurological conditions.

Services vary across each Member Organisation and may include support coordination, plan management, allied health, employment support, in-home care, social support, respite and supported disability accommodation. Find more information at the links below:

ACT, NSW, VIC & TAS



WA



Life not limits

SA & NT



South Australia & Northern Territory

QLD



Queensland

MS Australia understands that the information provided in this factsheet and the upcoming changes to the NDIS may be distressing.

If you feel overwhelmed, Lifeline is available 24/7 on 13 11 14 to offer free, confidential support.



RESEARCH
ADVOCACY
CURE

A BETTER ndis

FOR PEOPLE
LIVING WITH

