

What changed in the NDIS in 2024?

The federal government has rolled out NDIS reforms, starting with some significant changes from Thursday 3 October 2024.

There are new rules that cover many aspects of the NDIS including:

- How eligibility is assessed
- The supports that can be funded by the NDIS
- How plans are managed
- How funding is allocated and needs to be spent
- Requirements for information gathering for eligibility reassessment.

The government says most participants won't notice any changes until a new planning framework is introduced in 2025.

It has reassured participants that the purpose of the NDIS will not change and that it will continue to fund disability related support.

Impairment notices.

From 1 January 2025

An 'impairment notice' is a new type of document issued by the NDIA that says you have a permanent disability or significant impairment. It will list impairment(s) that meet the disability and/or early intervention requirements.

From 1 January 2025, all new NDIS participants will receive an impairment notice. People already on the NDIS will receive an impairment notice when they transition to a new plan.

The notice will include details about whether you meet the disability or early intervention pathways and the categories of impairment are met. Any supports purchased with your NDIS funds must meet the new definition of NDIS supports and relate to the impairment listed on your impairment notice.

This change recognises people with disability who have the same 'diagnoses' may have different support needs.

Impairment categories.

The NDIS impairment categories are:

- Intellectual
- Cognitive
- Neurological
- Sensory
- Physical
- Impairments attributable to a psychosocial disability.

One or more categories may be listed on your impairment notice.

Impairments and your NDIS Plan.

Impairments will be directly linked to funding decisions. Your planner will refer to the impairment notice before deciding on your NDIS funding.

From 3 October 2024, for people already on the NDIS, the planner must by law reference the person's impairment when making plan decisions. Disability advocates have expressed concern about this change for several reasons, including doubt about whether the NDIS has complete and up-to-date information about impairments for current participants.

Varying an impairment notice.

If your impairment notice is incorrect, you can ask for a variation, such as adding other impairments. This process has yet to be defined. You will need supporting information and documents.

New definition of NDIS supports.

From 3 October 2024. This change applies to all participants.

There is now a [list of NDIS supports](#) that outlines:

1. What you can spend your NDIS funding on (what IS an NDIS support)
2. What you are not allowed to spend your NDIS funds on (what is NOT an NDIS support).

The NDIS will now only fund supports related to the impairments that led to your acceptance onto the scheme. This means you can only spend money in your NDIS plan on supports that relate to the impairment identified during your initial access request.

This list of NDIS supports will remain in place while the government works with the states and territories on the final list.

Most things that people purchase with their plan funding are on the NDIS supports list, and the changes won't adversely impact most people.

There will be a 'transition period' for the first year of the new NDIS supports lists to ensure participants aren't penalised for minor mistakes.

Previously approved supports.

According to the [latest information released by the government](#), participants can continue to access stated supports in their current plans, as well as supports found to be reasonable and necessary by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, even if these are now on the excluded list.

For more details about the new NDIS supports lists, see [What does NDIS fund?](#)