

NDIS for people with MS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a government program that helps people with permanent disabilities get support to live more independently and reach their goals. For people with MS, the NDIS focuses on how MS affects everyday activities and participation, not the diagnosis alone.

What is the NDIS?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provides funding to people with significant disability to increase independence and support an 'ordinary' life. It gives eligible participants more choice and control over the services and supports they need. The scheme is administered by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), which decides eligibility and approves funding according to legislation.

Who can apply to the NDIS?

You can apply if you:

- Are under 65 years old (you must apply before turning 65)
- an Australian citizen or resident, or hold a permanent visa or protected special category visa
- diagnosed with a permanent and significant disability
- need support from others and/or equipment to do day to day activities and tasks

Is a diagnosis of MS automatically eligible for NDIS support?

No. A diagnosis alone does not guarantee eligibility. To access NDIS support, you must show that MS has a permanent and substantial impact on your daily life. Even if symptoms fluctuate, you may still be eligible if the overall impact is ongoing and likely to continue.

Am I eligible to apply?

To be eligible you must show that your functional capacity or ability to undertake activities is substantially reduced in one or more of the following six domains:

- mobility
- communication
- social interaction
- learning
- self-care and
- self-management

What type of evidence is required to apply?

When applying, you'll need evidence of how MS affects daily life. This usually includes forms from your neurologist or GP, plus reports or letters from your healthcare team.

Input from physiotherapists, occupational therapists, or other health professionals can strengthen your case.

Be open about both visible and hidden symptoms so your application reflects the full picture.

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What is the process to apply to the NDIS?

- 1. Check eligibility:** Review the NDIS access requirements to see if you may be eligible.
- 2. Contact a Local Area Coordinator (LAC):** LACs are funded by the NDIS to help people understand the scheme, check eligibility, and provide the Access Request Form. Call 1800 800 110 or visit the “Partners in the Community” section of the NDIS website to find your local LAC.
- 3. Complete the Access Request Form:** Fill in your details and sign the form. Your LAC can submit the application for you, so you don't need to complete the access request form yourself.
- 4. Gather supporting evidence:** Ask your neurologist, GP, or other health professionals to provide evidence of how MS affects your daily activities. Connecting symptoms to specific tasks you find difficult helps make your application stronger.
- 5. Submit your application:** Send the completed form and evidence to the NDIS. Your LAC can help you with this step.
- 6. NDIS assessment:** The NDIS will review your application to decide if you meet the access requirements.

What happens following your application?

If you are deemed eligible for NDIS support services, you will be contacted to schedule your first planning meeting to establish your goals and budget.

If you are deemed ineligible, you will have an opportunity to submit further evidence or you can request a formal review of the original ARF submitted.

What type of supports and services may be funded?

NDIS plans are tailored to your needs and what is considered ‘reasonable and necessary’. They don’t cover everyday costs like rent, groceries, medication, or services from other systems (e.g. health or education).

If eligible, you may be able to access supports such as:

- Physiotherapy to improve balance, strength, and reduce falls
- Occupational therapy for fatigue management or home modifications
- Assistive technology, such as walkers, shower chairs, or voice-to-text tools
- Support workers to assist with personal care, cleaning, transport, or meals

This is not a full list, and your plan may include other supports based on your individual needs.

Where to get further support

For more detailed information on the NDIS, to www.ndis.gov.au or call 1800 800 110

You can also contact Plus Connect to discuss your individual situation on 1800 042 138 or email connect@msplus.org.au

