

# Independent Assessments

What we think the NDIA should do

Easy Read version



## How to use this document



WA's Individualised Services (WAiS) wrote this guide.  
When you see the words 'we' or 'us', it means WAiS.



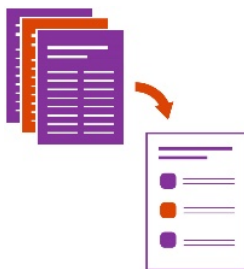
We have written this guide in an easy to read way.  
We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Not bold  
**Bold**

We have written some words in **bold**.  
This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.  
There is a list of these words on page 25.



This Easy Read guide is a summary of another document. This means it only has the most important information.



You can find the other document on our website at  
[waindividualisedservices.org.au](http://waindividualisedservices.org.au)



You can ask for help to read this guide.  
A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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## What is this document about?



This document is about the **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**.



The NDIS is how the Australian Government supports people with disability around Australia.

## NDIA



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



The NDIA wants to make the NDIS easier to use.

The NDIA also wants to make sure the NDIS is:



- fair



- **consistent.**



When something is consistent, it is done the same way every time.

# Independent assessments

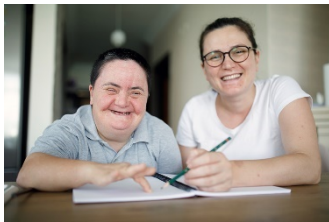


The NDIA says people with disability must have independent **assessments**.

Independent assessments are a new way for the NDIA to get information about:



- how your disability affects your life



- what supports you need from the NDIS.

An assessment is **independent** if it is done by someone who:



- doesn't already know you



- isn't the healthcare worker you usually go to for treatment.

The NDIA wants to use independent assessments to work out:



- who can take part in the NDIS



- what **funding** and supports you might need from the NDIS.



Your funding is the money from your NDIS plan that pays for the supports and services you need.



Independent assessors will do independent assessments.

# What do we think about independent assessments?



We don't think the NDIA should make people have independent assessments without a choice.

The NDIA should find a better way to work out:



- who can take part in the NDIS



- what funding and supports you might need from the NDIS.



We have reasons why we think the NDIA shouldn't make people have independent assessments without a choice.

We talk about our reasons on the following pages.



# The rights of people with disability



**Rights** are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.



The *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* is an agreement between different countries.

We call it the UN Convention.



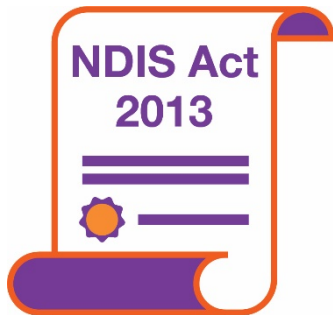
The UN Convention says people with disability should have the same rights as everybody else.



The UN Convention says people with disability have the right to live their life the way they want to.



There is also a law about how the NDIS works.



The law is called the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013*.

We call it the NDIS Act.



The NDIS Act makes sure we follow the UN Convention.

The NDIS Act says people with disability should be able to:



- take part in making decisions that affect them



- make their own choices

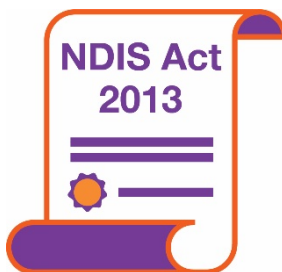


- take risks.

If the NDIA makes people have independent assessments without a choice, it can affect the rights of people with disability under the:

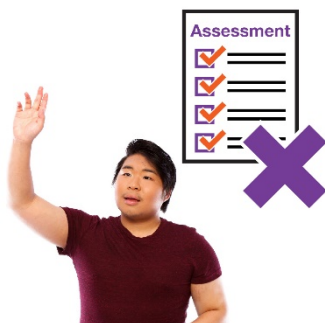


- UN Convention



- NDIS Act.

People with disability won't be able to choose:



- if they have an independent assessment or not



- their independent assessor.



The NDIA will use independent assessments to choose how much funding to give people with disability in their NDIS plans.



But they might not have enough funding in their NDIS plan.



This will make it harder for them to choose which supports and services to spend their funding on.

# A social model of disability



The UN Convention is based on a **social model of disability**.



The social model of disability is about the **barriers** people with disability face.



A barrier is something that stops you from doing something you:

- need to do
- want to do.



The UN Convention says the barriers people with disability face are there because society puts them there.

The **medical model of disability** says disability is:



- a problem with the person that should be fixed



- a bad thing



- an illness or disease that can be:
  - treated
  - cured.



Medical care and health care are important for people with disability.



But the medical model gives other people control over the lives of people with disability, such as:

- medical workers
- health care workers.

## Getting independent assessments



Some people are worried about how easy it will be to get independent assessments.

It could be hard for people with disability who:



- live far away from cities or towns



- need a lot of support



- communicate in different ways.



It could be even harder for people with disability who:



- come from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities



- speak languages other than English



- come from different **cultures** and backgrounds.

Your culture is:



- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- your beliefs
- what is important to you.





We are worried that independent assessors won't understand everyone's culture.



We are worried about how hard it will be for people from these groups to get good independent assessments.

## Using independent assessors



There are not many independent assessors.



People with disability can't choose their own independent assessor.



People with disability might wait a long time to meet with an independent assessor.

We don't think an independent assessor can do a good assessment if they:



- have just met the person



- only meet the person once



**3-4 hours**

- only take 3 or 4 hours.

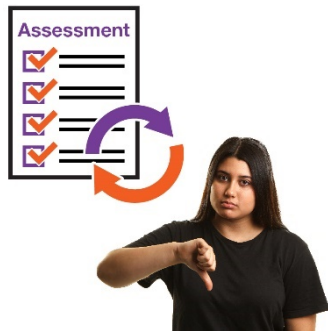
## Changing independent assessments



The NDIA will use independent assessments to make decisions about NDIS:

- plans
- funding.

Once you have had an independent assessment:



- you can't change what your assessment says



- the NDIA will say how much funding you can get.



You can only change your independent assessment if something about you or your life changes.



But you must have a new independent assessment.

Some people might get good results from their:



- supports and services



- independent assessment.



Their results might be so good that the NDIA thinks the person with disability doesn't need the NDIS anymore.



But they got good results because of their:

- NDIS plan
- supports and services.



If they stop using the NDIS, their results might not be very good anymore.

## What do we believe?



We don't agree with the NDIA making people have independent assessments without a choice.



The NDIA must change their plan for how independent assessments will:

- work
- be used.



The NDIA should work with people with disability to make the NDIS better.

The NDIA should also work with:



- families



- carers



- people who work with people with disability.



We believe we must protect the rights of people with disability.



We believe people with disability must have choice and control over their own lives.

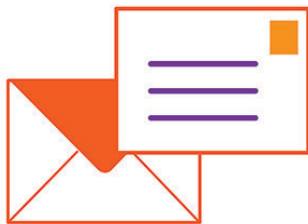
## Contact us



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## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



### **Assessments**

Independent assessments are a new way for the NDIA to get information about:

- how your disability affects your life
- what supports you need from the NDIS.



### **Barrier**

A barrier is something that stops you from doing something you:

- need to do
- want to do.



### **Consistent**

When something is consistent, it is done the same way every time.

## Culture

Your culture is:



- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- your beliefs
- what is important to you.



## Funding

Funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.

## Independent

An assessment is independent when it is done by someone who:



- doesn't already know you
- isn't the healthcare worker you usually go to for treatment.

## Medical model of disability

The **medical model of disability** says disability is:



- a problem that can be fixed
- always a bad thing
- an illness or disease that can be:
  - treated
  - cured.

## NDIA



### National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)

The NDIA runs the NDIS.



### National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The NDIS is how the Australian Government supports people with disability around Australia.



## **Rights**

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.



## **Social model of disability**

The social model of disability is about the barriers people with disability face.



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