

NDIS Pre-Access Pack

SSI Local Area Coordination

This pre-access pack will guide you on how SSI can help you to gain access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). It will also discuss how SSI can support you to connect to community and mainstream resources in your local area.

What is the NDIS?

The NDIS is Australia's National Scheme for people living with permanent disability.

What is a Local Area Coordinator?

SSI is partnered with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to deliver Local Area Coordination Services in NSW. We support people with disability aged 9 - 64 to navigate their goals, connect to supports in their local area and access the NDIS.

What is a Community Development Officer?

SSI Community Development Officers (CDO) work with people with disabilities and the broader community to enhance access to community and mainstream supports and services by building awareness and sharing information. Our community development officers collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to promote inclusion and employment opportunities. Community Development officers also lead and contribute to the planning of projects aimed at addressing challenges and barriers within the community.

What support does the NDIS fund?

The NDIS provides reasonable and necessary funding to people with permanent and significant disabilities so they can access the supports they need to live and enjoy their life.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the NDIS, you must have a disability caused by an impairment, or combination of impairments that are likely to be permanent and have a substantial impact on your daily living activities. You must be younger than 65 when you apply, be an Australia citizen, hold a permanent visa or hold a protected special category visa and live within Australia.

How to apply?

SSI can help you to understand and apply for access to the NDIS.

We will discuss what your goals are, look at your current support networks and work with you to explore additional community and mainstream supports that you might like to connect to.

We will discuss with you what evidence you may need to gain access to the NDIS. Your GP, allied health professional and/or special medical professional can help you prepare and provide the information and evidence required.

This evidence should confirm the diagnosis of your disability along with how this impacts your everyday life. Such as, how your mobility/motor skills, communication, social interaction, learning, self-care, or self-management might be impacted in your day-to-day life.

A Local Area Coordinator (LAC) will arrange a meeting with you to discuss a Community Connections Plan. Information recorded within a Community Connections Plan is about your life, your goals and how you want to work towards them. The different informal, community and mainstream supports and services that can help you work towards goals are also listed so you can keep track of who is helping you.

After you have gathered supporting evidence from your health professional, your LAC will arrange an Access Request Meeting with you to gather information about your daily life and to understand what supports could assist you.

What you will need:

- Evidence of Identity (including proof of age and residence). You can refer to the Evidence of Identity fact sheet included in this pack.
- Evidence of the permanency of your disability from your treating specialist. This evidence should also include how this impacts your everyday life.

- Examples of treating professionals include:
 - i. Paediatrician
 - ii. Psychiatrist
 - iii. Psychologist
 - iv. Occupational Therapist
 - v. Speech Pathologist (Therapist)
 - vi. Physiotherapist
 - vii. General Practitioner (GP)

Scan the QR code to visit the **NDIS**
website “Applying to the NDIS”:



How to submit your evidence to the NDIA:

In person: You can show us your original identity documents in person at the SSI LAC office or NDIA office. We will check your documents are real using the National Document Verification Service (DVS). If you don't give us your consent to use the DVS, we will need to receive copies of your identity documents. Copies of identity documents and supporting evidence can be sent in the following ways:

Email:

- **Evidence of Identity** must be sent to: enquiries@ndis.gov.au
Scans must be clear and easy to read, and in colour. If there is information on the back of the card or document this also must be scanned.
- Any supporting evidence including reports from health professionals can be emailed to your LAC directly or sent to: ssilac@ndis.gov.au

Mail: GPO Box 700, Canberra, ACT 2601

When do I know?

The NDIS will send you correspondence within 21 business days to let you know if you are eligible or need to provide additional information along with the next steps.

What if I am not eligible for NDIS?

SSI will work with you to explore and engage with other services available within your local area which can support you to work towards your goals. We will work with you to identify what steps you would like to take to achieve the goals in your Community Connections Plan. You can find out more about how SSI has supported people with disability to connect to community and mainstream services by visiting our "Your stories" page on our website.

Scan the QR code to access
our **Your Stories** webpage:



Crisis Supports

Emergency Services:

- If you are experiencing an emergency, phone Triple Zero (**000**) or TTY (**106**) for Police, Ambulance or Fire services.
- **Non-Emergency Police Assistance Line**
Call 131 444 to contact Police other than in an emergency.

Mental Health & Crisis Support:

- **Lifeline 24/7 Crisis Support**

Phone 13 11 14 or Text 0477 131 114

Anyone in Australia experiencing a personal crisis can contact Lifeline. You can also chat online to a trained Crisis Supporter Online on the lifeline website. www.lifeline.org.au

- **Mental Health Line NSW**

Phone 1800 011 511

NSW's Health 24/7 phone service which links people with NSW Health mental health services.

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander NSW Mental Health Line**

Phone 13YARN (13 92 76)

The NSW Mental Health Line provides a 24/7 culturally safe service for people who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

- **Transcultural Mental Health Line**

Phone 1800 648 911

The Transcultural Mental Health Line is a telephone service available to support people who live in NSW and who are from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The Line operates **Monday to Friday** between **9:00 am and 4:30 pm**.

- **Kids Helpline**

Phone 1800 55 1800

24/7 confidential support for Kids online and phone counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.

Housing Support:

- **LINK 2 HOME**

Phone 1800 152 152

From **9am** to **10pm** daily Link2home provides callers with information, assessments and referrals to homeless support and accommodation services across NSW.

Between the hours of **10pm** and **9am** Link 2 Home provides information and assessment only and will refer to emergency services if required.

- **Department of Communities and Justice**

Phone 1800 422 322

Works with housing support services to respond to homelessness in NSW and enable affordable housing for all.