**National Disability Insurance Scheme**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**How can schools support students to access the National Disability Insurance Scheme?**

Schools can play a significant role in assisting students to access NDIS support. Schools can assist students and their families by:

* providing information about NDIS to parents or guardians of students with disability either directly or via the school’s newsletter
* providing copies of student records and reports to parents or guardians to assist them in submitting access documentation to the NDIS.

Relevant information that schools hold and can provide to students and families to assist with NDIS process may include:

* copies of previous or current programs for students with disability
* the student’s individual learning plans
* departmental service reports or Allied Health reports.

Although the provision of these existing school documents is recommended, schools are not required to arrange new assessments for the purpose of providing evidence to support a student’s access to the NDIS.

**Should school or corporate staff provide assessments or reports to families to support applications for NDIS funded supports?**

The provision of existing school reports and documents is recommended to assist families to engage with the NDIS, and it is a local school decision whether or not staff have capacity to support students and families with additional requests. School and corporate staff are not required to arrange new assessments or reports for the primary purpose of supporting a student’s eligibility for, or access to, funded supports under the NDIS.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NDIS AND THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**

**Which supports will be funded by the NDIS and which will stay the responsibility of the education system?**

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has developed a framework of [general principles](https://www.coag.gov.au/sites/default/files/communique/NDIS-Principles-to-Determine-Responsibilities-NDIS-and-Other-Service.pdfhttps:/www.coag.gov.au/sites/default/files/communique/NDIS-Principles-to-Determine-Responsibilities-NDIS-and-Other-Service.pdf) to determine which supports will be funded by the NDIS and other mainstream services systems, such as education. The general rules are that:

* schools remain responsible for making reasonable adjustments to provide personalised learning and support for students that relate to their educational attainment (including teaching, learning assistance and aids, environmental modifications and transport between school activities) in accordance with relevant anti‑discrimination laws and the [Disability Standards for Education](https://www.education.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005)
* NDIS will fund supports associated with the functional impact of the student’s disability on their daily living activities (not those primarily related to education attainment).

**What about NDIS funding for personal care and transport to and from school?**

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Disability Reform Council has agreed the Northern Territory (and all other jurisdictions) will retain responsibility for personal care in schools and specialist transport to and from schools until 2023. There are no changes to how these supports are funded and delivered.

**What is not funded by the NDIS?**

Individuals and families have a role in funding education-related supports, such as purchasing school uniforms and paying course fees. The NDIS will not fund these costs.

**What types of requests do schools receive in relation to NDIS funded services?**

Schools may receive requests from students, families and providers to allow NDIS services to be delivered on school premises during school hours to:

* observe a student in the classroom or in the school environment
* attend planning for a student’s individual learning plan
* attend meetings to monitor and tailor the support provided to a student
* provide training/professional learning on school grounds
* provide support with the management of assistive technology such as standing frames or communication devices.

These requests can generally be accommodated by schools and complement holistic student planning and support processes.

**How should schools respond to requests for NDIS providers to deliver services at school?**

NT Government schools are encouraged to accommodate students and their families exercising choice and control in relation to NDIS supports, where it is practical to do so. In some circumstances, requests for NDIS school based services may raise practical and/or legal issues for principals that make the approval of the request unfeasible.

The NDIS does not fund therapy for the purpose of educational attainment. Principals are unlikely to be in breach of anti-discrimination provisions if they decline a request for NDIS funded services to occur on school grounds in circumstances where all ‘reasonable adjustments’ are in place for a student at the school. The decision rests with the school principal.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

The following links provide important information and will be useful for school, families and providers.

Information for teachers can be found at <https://www.adcet.edu.au/resource/9873/ndis-teacher-resources-2018-version/>

The pathway for new NDIS participants can be found at <https://www.ndis.gov.au/medias/documents/h6c/h17/8804888608798/New-pathway-experience-combined.pdf>

Assistance is available from:

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| **Student Wellbeing and Inclusion**  Department of Education  e: [sesupport.det@ntgov.au](mailto:sesupport.det@ntgov.au) | **NDIS** **National Contact Centre**  t: 1800 800 110  w: <https://www.ndis.gov.au>  e: [engagement.nt@ndis.gov.au](mailto:engagement.nt@ndis.gov.au) |