

NDIS Pathway Hearing Stream 0-6 years

What is the NDIS?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (also called the NDIS) provides support for Australians with disability and developmental delay, their families and carers.

The NDIS can provide funding, information and support to help people with disability and developmental delay achieve their goals. Goals may include things like greater independence, community involvement, employment and improved wellbeing. As an insurance scheme, the NDIS takes a lifetime approach, investing in people with disability early to improve their outcomes later in life. The NDIS also provides people with disability and developmental delay, their family and carers with information and referrals to existing support services in the community.

How can the NDIS help me and my child?

Your child's early years are very important as they set up how they'll learn and develop later in life. Support provided early will help you and give your child the best chance of achieving their potential.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has worked with a range of leading Australian early childhood intervention practitioners and researchers to design the NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) approach. This approach has been designed to identify the type and level of early intervention support your child needs to achieve their best outcome. Early intervention in the early years is critical to achieving the best outcomes for your child.

Is my child eligible for the NDIS Pathway Hearing Stream 0-6 years?

Your child will be eligible for the NDIS Pathway Hearing Stream if:

- they have been newly diagnosed with hearing loss;
- they are aged 0-6 years of age;
- they are an Australian citizen or hold a permanent visa or a Protected Special Category visa;
- they have confirmed audiological results consistent with auditory neuropathy or hearing loss greater than or equal to 25 decibels in either ear at 2 or more adjacent frequencies, which is likely to be permanent or long term; and
- the hearing loss of the child necessitates the use of personal amplification.

How do I access the NDIS?

Australian Hearing can help you apply to access the NDIS. With your permission, Australian Hearing will forward evidence of your child's hearing loss to the NDIA and you will then receive written advice about your child's NDIS access within a few days. Australian Hearing will also tell you about the NDIS Early Childhood (EC) Partner in your local area.

Applying to access NDIS during your first appointment with Australian Hearing will ensure you receive NDIS funding faster and will help your child receive early intervention supports sooner. However, if you prefer to do this at another time you can call NDIS on **1800 800 110** or contact your local NDIS EC Partner. The choice is yours.



What happens next?

Once your child has access they become a NDIS participant, and a specialist NDIS planner will contact you within two weeks to support you to develop your child's initial NDIS plan. This plan will include a reasonable and necessary level of funding for early intervention supports. Once your child's NDIS plan is approved, you can use this funding straight away with the early intervention providers you choose. Your EC Partner in your local area will also contact you within four weeks of your child's plan approval to see how things are going, and they will be your ongoing NDIS point of contact to discuss any questions about the NDIS plan or other queries you may have.

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- 1 Child newly diagnosed with hearing loss and referred to Australian Hearing.
- 2 Australian Hearing or local NDIS office supports family to submit NDIS Access Request.
- 3 NDIA makes an NDIS Access decision within 2 days and advises the family.
- 4 Specialist NDIS planner makes contact with the family within 2 weeks to develop an initial plan.
- 5 NDIS plan is approved and family engages Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) providers of their choice.
- 6 Local NDIS EC Partner office supports family with plan implementation and connection to local community supports.
- 7 NDIA undertakes plan reviews as required to meet individual needs of child/family.

Glossary

Australian Hearing – The Commonwealth government funds an organisation called Australian Hearing to provide hearing services and supports to children.

Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) – Providing support early in life to reduce the effects of disability and developmental delay to improve the person's functional capacity.

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Provider – A business that provides specialised, evidence-based early intervention supports to help participants achieve the goals in their NDIS plan. Participants can choose their ECI providers and change ECI providers at any time. This is also known as choice and control.

Early Childhood (EC) Partner – Local organisations working in partnership with the NDIA, to help participants, their families and carers use the NDIS and other supports in the local community.

NDIA – National Disability Insurance Agency. The Commonwealth government organisation administering the NDIS.

NDIS – National Disability Insurance Scheme. Provides support for Australians with disability, their families and carers.

NDIS Pathway – a person with disability's experience with the NDIS from gaining access to using their NDIS plan.

NDIS



1800 800 110

[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

For people who need help with English



TIS National 131 450

For people with hearing or speech loss



TTY: 1800 555 677



Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727



Internet relay: National Relay Service

www.relayservice.gov.au