

7. Evidence and Carers Statement



To determine whether you or child is eligible for the NDIS, it is vital for you to provide evidence such as professional documentation outlining the disability and how it impacts on you or your child's life. Insufficient or unclear documentation can delay your application. Or without any evidence, NDIA may not approve your application for NDIS funding or early intervention.

NDIA recommends good and strong evidence documentation needs to be recent, completed by a treating health professional who is relevant to your primary disability, confirms your primary disability, confirms the impacts of your disability on the different areas of your life, describes previous treatments and outcomes, and describes future treatment options and expected outcomes of those treatments if appropriate. Evidence can consist of reports, previous support plans, assessments and any other documentation which demonstrates yours or your child's needs. You may also have evidence of strategies which have been put in place, or progress which has occurred.

For example, you may include the following evidence:

An audiogram is imperative, assessment reports from assistive technology providers, Client support plan, health support plan, individual education plan. Therapy assessments from psychologists, physiotherapists, speech therapists or occupational therapists, a letter from a doctor or paediatrician, information from kindergarten, school or childcare, behaviour management plan, lifestyle plan, recreational program information, information from service providers, a Carers Statement, which you can refer to in the DCA NDIS workbook and any other evidence you feel would be helpful.

Shortly, I am about to show you a mock therapy assessment by an occupational therapist. Keep in mind, not all assessments are exactly the same. However, the content should be the same. It is important for you to understand and ensure the language in all supporting documents is written appropriately to match NDIS evidence criteria and NDIA language. You need to look for client details, type of disability, assessment report, summary from the allied health professional and recommendations for therapies and support.

If you want a copy of a mock assessment to help you with checking your supporting documentation, you can find it on our website.

The Carers Statement

Often when parents and guardians think of the NDIS, they think about the person with the disability and his or her needs. Parents and guardians forget to think of themselves as carers or informal supports, and what their own needs are. Yes, it is expected for the parents and guardians to provide reasonable care for their child with a disability. However, carers are not expected to provide care and supervision 24/7. The NDIS provides an opportunity for carers to access paid support to allow for the carers to have a break and an opportunity for the person with a disability to learn to not be so reliant on their parent or unpaid carer, and allow them to flourish independently.

If you feel this is something you and/ or your child would benefit from, you have the option to submit a Carers Statement and/ or request a separate interview or planning meeting to support your child.

For more details, refer to the DCA NDIS Workbook Carers Statement.