

9. Needs of the young person



NDIS planning can be overwhelming. Being well prepared and having the right information and paperwork will reduce the stress. Knowing prior to the NDIS planning meeting what questions the planner will ask you will help you and your family to be well prepared and to feel confident in the meeting.

The NDIA relies on planners' reports to create a portfolio which includes your profile, needs, goals, reports and evidence documentation. All this information will give the NDIA a foundation to work on and help them to determine whether you are eligible for NDIS funding and how much funding you would be eligible for.

To strengthen your NDIS application, it is important that you know what specific type of support, items and services you need. Do your research prior to the planning meeting and if possible, have information and quotes available at the planning meeting. I have highlighted the topics the planner might ask you in the meeting:

Living arrangements

Where do you live and who do you live with? What type of house do you live in? For example, is it an apartment, house, unit or bungalow? Is there anything you would like to change about where you live now? Are the safety features such as smoke detectors and doorbell alarms accessible? That will give them a clearer picture for you.

Important people

Who are the most important people in your life? For example, they could be family, friends and other people who care for you. Are there people that support you in everyday life? For example, Auslan interpreters, note takers, support workers, mentors, friends, carers, teachers or case managers.

Services

What services do you currently use? You may have access to your health service such as an audiologist or other services you may currently use are disability services or allied health such as a psychologist.

What services would you like to use? Think about other services that you may have not been able to access but you would benefit from. These could be Auslan in the home, deaf awareness training, youth mentoring, support coordination and NDIS plan management.

Equipment

Do you use assistive equipment in your daily life? What equipment do you use regularly? What equipment would you like to use? These could be visual alerts for smoke alarms and a doorbell or personal alarm for safety protection when walking solo.

Activities

The planner will want to know your current day to day activities. Here are some examples. School, sports training and competitions or matches, church, or music lessons. If there are activities that you would like to do but have not been able to do for whatever reason that is disability related, write down the activities you would like to do. What funding supports you would need to remove the barriers, plus what support the young person needs. This could be Auslan interpreters, support workers or Deaf Awareness Training.

Daily Living

What are your main activities - like creating art at home? What would you like to do differently, maybe participate in community art activities?

What barriers would you like to overcome? Such as being able to participate in community workshops or accessing Auslan interpreters.

Transportation

What transport do you use?

Do you use taxis, taxi vouchers or a modified vehicle?

What would you like to use in the next twelve months?

Would you like driving lessons with an interpreter for example?

What are the barriers that you have now for accessing transport?

If you have a mobility allowance via Centrelink, you need to be aware that once you transition to NDIS Centrelink no longer funds mobility allowance and this will need to come under your NDIS plan. This may not be funded at the same level you had through Centrelink and it does not mean it will automatically transfer over. It all depends on your evidence, circumstances and goals.

This is why it is so important for you to prepare well and have all the evidence you can to show the need for transportation funds. Some examples of transportation funds might be attendance at hospitals or disability day services. A supporting letter from an Occupational Therapist is strongly advised.

Communication

Do you currently use communication supports? For example, Auslan interpreters, captioning, or communication support workers? Do you have any problems communicating? In what environments do you

have problems communicating? For example, at school, work, in your sporting clubs, with your family in Auslan or in a crowd? What communication supports would you like? Auslan training, Auslan interpreters, live captioning or a Roger FM unit?

Technology

What technology do you use in your home and or in your work environment? A laptop or an iPad? What needs to be changed to improve the safety and accessibility of your home? Maybe specialist equipment such as a visual alarm for the door, fire, phone, a hearing loop or captioned phone.

Social and community participation

What activities are your regular and occasional activities? For example, sports clubs, recreational programs, outside school hours care, holiday programs or camps.

Do you need any support to fully participate in these activities such as captioning, Auslan interpreters or communication support workers?

What are the regular activities you would like to do in the next twelve months? And what are the occasional activities you would like to do?

Maybe accessing an Auslan interpreter or communication support worker to attend hearing family or friends' events.

Relationships

Do you need support to help you build positive relationships? You may wish to consider some of the following supports. For example, psychologist, speech therapist, paediatrician, behaviour management support and advice. Do you currently access supports like these? And what supports would you like to access over the next twelve months?

Health and Wellbeing

Do you access supports due to other requirements of your disability to help keep healthy and well? Like for example, accessing psychology or mental health programs or interpreters at gym classes. What supports would you like to have over the next twelve months? Maybe communication support for access to community classes and activities such as deaf yoga.

Learning

What skills, training or support could help you transition through school to further education? For example, School Leaver Employment Supports, or SLES. What is S.L.E.S. - or SLES? SLES is about preparing a young person with a disability transitioning from Year Twelve to employment. SLES provides tailored programs for support in job skills training, travel training, work experience in open employment, time management, money handling.

What will you be transitioning to after your education? What supports will you need to assist this transition through the School Leaver Employment Supports? Deaf specialist disability employment advice, Deaf Awareness Training, deaf mentor or role model access?

Work

Are you at school, in training or working in a part time or full-time job? What is your ideal job? Would you like to volunteer or get work experience? Do you have barriers to achieving your ideal job and if so, what are they? Maybe no communication, access to information, no opportunity. What supports do you need to overcome these barriers? Maybe access to information, Deaf Awareness Training for workplaces or communication support.