



Summary paper: NDIS Supports rules consultations

This paper gives you information to help you give feedback about the NDIS Supports rules.

What we are talking about

In 2024, the Australian Parliament made changes to the NDIS Act. These changes set the direction for how the NDIS will improve.

To put these changes into action, some new NDIS rules are being made and some existing rules need to be updated. Other rules will stay the same.

NDIS rules set out how the NDIS Act works in practice. Rules can be further described in operational guidelines and provide the detail for how the NDIS is operated.

This consultation is about the NDIS Supports rules (section 10).

NDIS Supports rules (section 10)

We use this rule to make it clear **what types of supports and services NDIS funding can be used for.**

The NDIS Supports rules was created following feedback by the NDIS Review that participants and others want it to be clearer what supports they can spend their NDIS funds on.

The changes aren't meant to reduce the level of supports a person gets through their NDIS plan. They help make it clearer what it is and isn't appropriate to spend NDIS funds on. This includes being clear NDIS funding should only be spent on disability supports.

Last year, we consulted about the NDIS Supports lists. More than 7,000 people provided their views on how the NDIS Support lists should work.

We heard that consultation could have been done better. People said there wasn't enough time to give feedback.

In October 2024, the Government put a transitional rule in place for the NDIS Supports rule (section 10). This has been in place while we talked more with the disability community about how the NDIS Supports rule will work in practice.

You can access the other versions of this paper on our [engagement webpage](#):

- an Easy Read version of this paper. It includes questions you can fill out.
- an Auslan version of this paper.

Why we are asking for feedback

The transitional rules for NDIS Supports created a list for what supports people could spend their NDIS funds on. A list of the current NDIS supports is available on the [NDIS website](#).

The rules now need to be updated.

We want to hear from participants and the disability community. In particular about their experience of the current definitions and list of NDIS supports.

Your feedback will help make decisions about changes to the NDIS Supports rules.

NDIS Supports lists

To give us your feedback you may need to look at the [current NDIS Supports lists](#).

These lists were created by the transitional NDIS Supports rules that came into place in October 2024.

Things to think about

We've included some things that you might like to think about when giving your feedback. We based this on what people have told us so far.

We have also written a 'What we've heard so far' document to support this summary. You can find that document on our [website](#).

We've heard the rules give some participants and providers a better understanding about what the NDIS can or cannot fund.

- It has helped give some participants more confidence when they pay for supports.
- It has helped some providers and workers know they can deliver certain types of supports.

The lists of NDIS supports are too restrictive and create confusion.

- People have shared they are confused about what some of the items in the lists mean.
- In particular, people have said the following areas are very confusing:
 - Standard household items
 - Animal-assisted therapy
 - Day-to-day living costs

Everyday products and services can be a better way to support disability needs and save money.

- Some people have said the rule stops participants from accessing innovative low-cost household products. These can be an alternative to more costly supports.
- People shared concerns that the current definitions don't include some low-cost Assistive Technology items and aids.

Types of therapies funded by the NDIS.

- Some participants and stakeholders have said they want more information about the types of therapies included as NDIS supports. This included more information about the qualifications needed to deliver these supports.
- There are types of therapies that are not included in the lists of supports that can be funded by the NDIS. Some stakeholders have said more therapies should be included in the lists because there is evidence they support people with disability to live independently, be healthy and participate in their communities. These included, for example, yoga, massage, music and art therapy.

Support coordinators, plan managers and providers need to be more consistent in how they understand and use the lists.

- Participants have shared concerns that those who make decisions about their plans can interpret the rule and lists of supports differently. This leads to more confusion for them.

Disability peak bodies and others have asked for a principles-based approach to the NDIS Supports rule.

The NDIS Act says the rule must state what is, and is not, an NDIS support.

This was based on hearing from the community that they wanted it to be clearer whether a support can be funded by the NDIS or not.

A principles-based approach would mean there aren't clear definitions. People would have to make complex decisions. This is not supported by the intention of the NDIS Supports rule or the changes to the NDIS Act.

This means the NDIS Supports lists need to stay.

Questions we have for you

Since the current transitional rules for NDIS Supports came in on 3 October 2024:

- **How well do you understand the NDIS Support rule?**
- **What would help make the rule easier to understand?**
- **How have the lists of NDIS Supports helped you to know what the NDIS can and cannot fund?**
- **What have you found hard about using or understanding the lists for:**
 - supports that are NDIS supports
 - supports that are not NDIS supports?
- **What are some examples of things in the NDIS Supports lists that aren't clear?**
- **Are there any areas of the NDIS Supports rule (or lists) you think need to be changed?** This might include things that should be included in the lists.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Please give us your feedback about the NDIS Supports lists that were put in place as part of the transitional rule for NDIS Supports.

You can complete the [online survey](#). Or you can request a printed copy of the survey.

At the end of the survey, you can upload a submission. You can send any type of submission—a written document, audio or video file. You can also email us your submission to ndisconsultations@dss.gov.au

Help to complete the survey

If you would like support to complete the survey over the phone, you can call the DSS Complaints phoneline, leave a message and we will call you back. Please include in your message:

- Your first name
- Your contact number
- The best time for us to call you back
- That your call is about the NDIS Supports consultation.

You can also email us with questions at: ndisconsultations@dss.gov.au

