

EASY ENGLISH

YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE NDIS

- An Easy English Guide for Consumers
- The NDIS means the 'National Disability Insurance Scheme'.
- It is the new way the Australian Government will support people with disabilities.
- When you get help from the NDIS you have rights

1: You have a right to have an advocate:

It is a good idea to have an advocate with you when you are talking with people from the NDIS.

You can choose who your advocate should be.

Your advocate should be someone you trust.

Your advocate should be someone who will help you understand your rights.

Your advocate should be someone who will help you stand up for your rights.

2: You have a right to make a complaint if you disagree with decisions the NDIS makes

If you are not happy with a decision made by the staff at the NDIS, you can make a complaint.

If you are not happy with how the staff treat you at the NDIS, you can make a complaint.

When you make a complaint, you should first tell the staff at the NDIS. They then should listen to your complaint and decide what to do next.

If you don't agree with how they respond to your complaint, you can then go to a place called the AAT. The government has given the AAT the authority to make a final decision about your complaint.

If you want to make a complaint about anything to do with the NDIS, you should ask an advocate to help you.

3. You have a right to expect people to do what they say they'll do

If a staff member at the NDIS says they will do something to help you, you have a right to expect them to do it.

If they don't do what they say they will do, you should talk to an advocate about how what to do.

If a staff member at another service provider says they will do something to help you, you have a right to expect them to do it.

If they don't do what they say they will do, you should talk to an advocate about how what to do.

4. You have a right to expect service providers to give you good support

The law says service providers must help you to meet your goals in life.

The law also says service providers must help you be part of the community.

The law also says service providers must do their job well.

If you don't think a service provider is doing any of these things, you can talk to an advocate about it.

If you make a complaint about the service provider, this could mean that the service provider learns how to do a better job.

Or it could mean that you can get help from a better service provider.

5. You have a right to make your own decisions

You have a right to make your own decisions about what sort of support you get from the NDIS.

You have a right expect the staff at the NDIS to give you information in a way that you can understand, so you can make a decision about what sort of support you want.

You have a right to get support, if you need it, to help you make decisions.

You can get this support from someone you trust.

If the NDIS staff organise for someone to support you in making decisions, but you are not happy with the person, you should tell the NDIS staff that you want someone else to help you instead.

Anyone who supports you to make decisions about the NDIS should always respect your choices. They should never take over. It's YOUR decision.

6. You have a right to be treated equally

The law says that the staff at the NDIS have to treat you as well as anyone who doesn't have a disability.

It also says that if you need extra help or support because of your disability, you should be able to get it.

This means that you have a right to have everything explained to you in a way that you understand.

It means that you have a right to take extra time to make decisions, if you need it.

It means you have a right to have a friend or advocate support you whenever you need it.

It means the staff should do whatever they can to make sure you can participate in the NDIS as fully as anyone else can.

7. You have a right get support from the ndis

The law says that if you have a disability, and the disability makes it difficult for you to live the life you want to lead, you should be able to get support from the NDIS.

If the NDIS staff don't think you have a disability, but you think you do, you should talk to an advocate. The advocate may be able to help you explain to the NDIS staff more about your disability.

8. You have a right to information in a form you can understand

When you want to get support from the NDIS there is a lot of information you will need to get.

Some of the information can be very difficult to understand.

You have a right to ask the NDIS staff to explain the information to you.

You have a right to ask the NDIS staff to give you the information in a format that you can understand.

You have a right to ask for extra time to help you understand the information.

You have a right to have an advocate or support person help you understand the information. You have a right to choose who that person will be.

9. You have a right to get the support you need and want

The NDIS says that you should get the support you need.

This means you have a right to the support that will help you meet your goals in life.

It means you have a right to the support that will help you be part of the community.

If the NDIS staff don't agree with you about how much support you should get, or about who you can get it from, you should ask an advocate to help you. The advocate may be able to help get the NDIS staff to change their mind.

If the NDIS staff say that the support you need is not available, you should talk to an advocate. They may be able to talk to the NDIS staff to see if there is some other way of getting you the support you need.

DISCLAIMER

The material contained in these fact sheets is of the nature of general comment only and is not intended to be advice on any particular matter. Readers should not act on the basis of any material on this fact sheet without obtaining advice relevant to their own particular situations. The authors expressly disclaim any liability to a person in respect of any action taken or not taken in reliance on the contents of this publication.