

DISABILITY SERVICES GLOSSARY

ENGLISH	
Disability services glossary	
<i>This information has been drawn from a range of healthcare and government websites</i>	
Accessibility	
In the context of disability, 'accessibility' is often used to describe something that can be entered or reached (for instance a building).	
Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)	
Any type of brain damage that occurs after birth. ABI can be caused by many things, including trauma, infection, strokes or alcohol and drug abuse.	
Advocate	
To advocate for someone is to speak or write in support of them or something that affects them.	
Allied Health	
Allied Health professions are health care jobs such as physiotherapists, social workers, speech therapists, or occupational therapists. They require university qualifications. This term does not include nurses, doctors, dentists and pharmacists.	
Aspiration	
The hope or ambition of achieving something.	
Assessment	
When a health practitioner asks you questions about your mental or physical health. They may also do tests or a physical examination. This will help identify any problems or needs and find the best ways to address them. See also 'Diagnosis'.	

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Autism	
Autism is a 'developmental condition', which means that a child is not developing in the same way as most children. The child often has difficulties with social interaction and communication, can be sensitive to noise or uses repetitive actions. Autism is often diagnosed at an early age (2 or 3 years old). There are many degrees to which it affects a person's life – this is called the 'autism spectrum'.	
Autonomy	
Autonomy means the same as independence: the ability to make decisions and do things on your own.	
Carer	
A carer is someone who is responsible for looking after another person, for example, a person who has a disability, is ill or very young.	
Child development	
Refers to the physical, emotional and language changes that occur in a child from birth to the start of adulthood (it includes adolescence). During this time, a child progresses from dependency on their parent/guardian to increasing independence. Child development occurs during predictable time periods, called 'developmental milestones'. These periods vary from child to child.	
Choice and Control	
In the NDIS, choice and control means that a participant has the right to make their own decisions about what is important to them and to decide how they would like to receive their supports and from whom.	
Client/Consumer	
Someone who receives a service.	

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Community engagement	
The many ways people with a disability participate in the community like going to shops and cinemas, visiting the library and community centres, talking to their neighbours, going to festivals and playing sport.	
Community and informal supports	
The people and services that support people with a disability, including friends and family, sports teams, activity groups or a school.	
Confidentiality	
This means that the information you give to a healthcare professional is private. The healthcare professional must get your agreement before sharing the information with anyone. They need your permission ('consent') to share your information.	
Consent	
To give permission for something to happen.	
Criteria (or criterion)	
Is a measure by which you decide something.	
Defined program	
Government-funded programs that existed before the NDIS to support people with a disability. They include, for example, Disability Support Register (DSR), Futures for Young Adults and Supported Accommodation. A list can be found on the NDIS website under 'Access to the NDIS, List c'.	

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Developmental delay	
This occurs when a child under the age of 6 has not reached expected progress (called 'developmental milestones') for their age. For example, if the normal range for learning to walk is between 9 and 15 months, and a 20-month-old child has still not started walking, this would be considered a developmental delay.	
Diagnosis	
The identification of an illness or other problem (see also 'assessment').	
Disability	
An illness, injury or condition that makes it difficult for someone to do the things that other people do.	
Disability Pension	
Provides financial support if you have a physical, intellectual or psychiatric condition that stops you from working.	
Disability Support Worker	
Provides you with personal, physical and emotional support if you require assistance with daily living. A Disability Support Worker can help with showering, dressing and eating, and assist with outings and other social activities.	

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Early Intervention	
Early intervention means doing things as early as possible to work on a person's needs. It is often applied to children. In the NDIS, children under the age of 6 are provided with early intervention support through the Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) program.	
ECEI	
See 'Early intervention' above	
Eligibility	
Being allowed to do or receive something because you satisfy certain conditions. To be eligible for the NDIS, you need to be under 65 years of age, an Australian citizen, resident or permanent visa holder and meet the disability or early intervention criteria.	
Equipment	
The tools and machines that someone with a disability may need such as a wheelchair or hearing aid.	
Functional impairment	
Describes a person's damage or weakening of body or function, a limitation in activities or a restriction in participation in their environment. A disability can be attributed to one or more impairments.	
Goals	
What you would like to achieve in the future. Can also be called 'objectives'.	

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General Practitioner/GP	
Family doctors in Australia are also called General Practitioners (GP). Some doctors work in health centres and hospitals and some work in their own offices. All GPs have university degrees. You can make your own appointment with the GP when you are sick or feeling unwell or if you want a health check-up to make sure you don't have any health problems. If unable to attend an appointment, you must phone and cancel it.	
Hard-of-hearing / deaf	
Deaf refers to someone who has very little hearing and uses sign language to communicate. Hard-of-hearing refers to someone who has a mild-to-moderate hearing loss and may communicate through sign language, spoken language or both. The deaf community does not recommend using the term 'hearing impaired'.	
Independence	
Means the same as 'autonomy' - the ability to make decisions and do things on your own.	
Insurance	
In the NDIS, the word 'insurance' means that everyone contributes to the fund (through their taxes) even if they don't need the services themselves.	
Intellectual disability	
Difficulty in learning, problem solving and remembering information and ideas.	

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Mental Illness	
A mental illness is a health problem that significantly affects how a person feels, thinks, behaves and interacts with other people. It is different from a mental health problem, which is less severe than a mental illness. Mental health problems are more common and can be experienced temporarily as a reaction to the stresses of life.	
Multi-disciplinary	
Generally describes a team of professionals from different disciplines who work together and complement each other's work.	
My Aged Care	
My Aged Care is the main system to help people find appropriate aged care services in Australia. It is funded by the Federal Government and provides information about the aged care system, how people over the age of 65 can have their needs assessed and how they can access services.	
National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)	
The NDIS is the new way to fund disability services. It is funded by the Federal Government. It provides support for Australians citizens and permanent residents with a permanent or significant disability, their families and carers.	
Occupational Therapist (OT)	
These workers focus on your ability to perform your daily activities. They aim to improve your independence. They have particular skills in problem solving, and breaking down activities or tasks to make them easier to manage and learn. They can also provide advice and assistance on what equipment can help.	

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Participant	
Someone who has been accepted into the NDIS	
Participant Statement	
The goals and aspirations that a person with a disability outlined in their NDIS plan	
Peer Worker	
A person who understands your needs based on their own experience. For instance, a Peer Worker providing support about a mental health problem will themselves have experienced problems with their mental health.	
Permanent Disability	
A disability or condition that will not go away and will affect a person for their whole life. The NDIS website has a list of what qualifies as a 'permanent disability'.	
Physical disability	
A physical condition that affects a person's mobility, and ability to perform physical tasks and routine daily activities.	
Physiotherapist	
Physiotherapy is the treatment of injury or illness through physical methods — such as exercise, massage, manipulation and other treatments — rather than medication and surgery. A physiotherapist in an 'Allied Health' professional.	
Plan	
The NDIS plan is a written agreement between you and the government about what support you need to achieve your 'goals'. Everyone has a different plan as it is about the individual. It includes a budget to fund the supports. Under the NDIS, each participant has their own plan and the plan needs to be approved by the National Disability Insurance Agency before it can start. The first plan lasts for one year.	

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Planning conversation	
To prepare your plan, you will meet with someone called a 'Local Area Coordinator' or Planner who will discuss with you your goals and your needs. It may take several conversations. There is information on the NDIS website (under 'My first plan') that can help you to explain what you want.	
Portal	
The NDIS portal is like a personal account through the NDIS website. It enables people to view their plan and funded supports, track their budget and find useful information about registered NDIS providers.	
Provider	
Someone who provides a service. For instance, a Disability Service Provider will help people who have a disability to get the supports outlined in their NDIS plan. Under the NDIS you can choose your providers and change them anytime you want.	
Psychosocial	
'Psychosocial Disability' is the word used by the NDIS to describe a permanent and ongoing disability that is caused by mental health issues. To be eligible for the NDIS, a participant will need to prove that their psychosocial disability is permanent and has a strong impact on their ability to function in daily life and activities.	
Reasonable and necessary	
To be accepted in your plan, the supports you ask for in your plan must be seen by the NDIS as 'reasonable and necessary'. Reasonable means something 'fair' and 'necessary' means 'something you must have'. The NDIS funds reasonable and necessary supports relating to a person's disability to help them live an ordinary life and achieve their goals.	

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Referral	
A letter from your doctor to a specialist asking for an appointment for you. If the referral is to a specialist in a public hospital, the hospital will contact you to make an appointment. If it is to a private specialist, you will need to make the appointment yourself.	
Rehabilitation	
The action of helping you go back to health or normal life through training and therapy, for instance after an illness or an operation.	
Respite	
Short-term rest for carers. During respite, you will be looked after by someone other than your usual carer.	
Scheme	
A scheme is an organized plan for doing something. The NDIS is a 'scheme' but you can think about it as a large government program.	
Self-management	
Means that you are in charge of managing your NDIS funding and pay the providers directly. You can choose to do this, or to have an agency do it for you if it is easier.	
Significant	
The NDIS considers a 'significant disability' to be a disability that makes it difficult for you to take part in everyday life and activities without assistance or aides.	
Speech pathologist	
A health professional who offers strategies that may improve communication skills. They can also provide advice about a child's feeding and eating skills.	

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Subsidised	
Means 'supported financially'. In Australia, many services working with children are 'subsidised' by the government. This reduces the cost of the service to you.	
Temporary	
A disability or condition that will only last for a certain time.	
Therapy	
A type of treatment that helps someone feel better, grow stronger, function as fully as possible, etc.	
Treatment	
Medical care given for an illness or injury	
Vision-impaired/blind	
<p>A person with vision impairment or low vision is not blind, but their loss of vision is severe enough to affect their daily life and it cannot be corrected by regular glasses.</p> <p>A person who is totally blind has no measurable or useable vision at all and cannot see the light. 'Legally blind' is a term used by government to identify people who are eligible for special services.</p>	

For more information about the NDIS and CALD communities:

- NDIS: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants.html>
- Amparo: <http://www.amparo.org.au/factsheets/>
- Health Translations: healthtranslations.vic.gov.au
- NDIS: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants.html>
- Amparo: <http://www.amparo.org.au/factsheets/>
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