



Independent assessment tools

How we chose what tools to use

Easy Read guide



ndis

[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

How to use this guide



The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) wrote this guide. When you see the word 'we', it means the NDIA.



We have written this guide in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

We have written some words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 23.



This Easy Read guide is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on **our website**.



You can ask for help to read this guide. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What's in this guide?

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How will independent assessments work?



We do **assessments** to work out:



- how your disability affects your life



- what supports you need from the NDIS.

An assessment is **independent** when it is done by someone who:



- doesn't already know you
- isn't the healthcare professional you usually see.



You can find more information about independent assessments on the Independent Assessments page of **our website**.



We will choose who can do independent assessments.

We call them **independent assessors**.

Independent assessors:



- don't work for the NDIA



- understand the needs of people with disability



- do your independent assessment with you.

What are independent assessment tools?



Independent assessors will use some documents to do independent assessments.



We call them **independent assessment tools**.

In this document, we just call them tools.



Independent assessors will all use the same tools.

These tools will make sure independent assessments are:



- fair



- done the same way every time.



We will teach independent assessors how to use these tools.

Why do we do independent assessments this way?



In 2019 a man named Mr Tune did a **review** of the NDIS.



When you review something, you check to see what:

- works well
- needs to be better.



Mr Tune gave us lots of ideas about how to make the NDIS better for everyone.



Mr Tune said that asking **participants** to pay for an assessment was a barrier.



NDIS participants are people with disability who get NDIS supports and services.

He said assessments should be:



- free for participants



- done the same way every time.



He said if independent assessments were done the same way every time, we would get better information about participants.

Testing independent assessments



We did a lot of research to work out how to do independent assessments.



We ran 2 **pilots**.



Pilots are a test run to work out what:

- works well
- needs to be better.

The first pilot



The first pilot tested if independent assessments could work well.



513 people with disability had independent assessments.

They included people with:

- **autism**



Autism might affect how well you can:

- think
- feel
- communicate
- connect and deal with others.

- **intellectual disability**



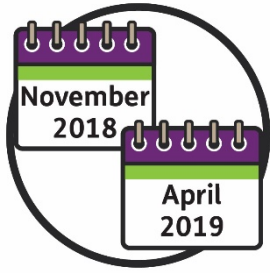
An intellectual disability affects how well you can:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



- **psychosocial disability.**

A psychosocial disability affects your mental health.



The first pilot:

- started in November 2018
- ended in April 2019.



We learnt that we should use the same tools for everyone during independent assessments.

We also learnt that independent assessments should think about each person's:



- health



- home life



- goals.

The second pilot



We chose a set of independent assessment tools to test in the second pilot.

We asked people to help us choose these tools, including:



- people with disability



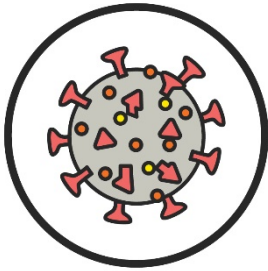
- people who work and study in universities.



We started the second pilot in December 2019.



We planned to test the tools with 3,000 participants.



But we had to stop the second pilot in March 2020 because of coronavirus.



When we stopped, we had only tested the tools with 99 participants.

How we choose the tools



We wrote a document called the *Independent Assessment Framework*.

We call it the Framework.



You can find out more about the Framework on [our website](#).

We worked with other people to write the Framework, including:



- people from universities



- disability organisations



- disability experts.



The Framework helped us work out:

- what the tools need to do
- how to choose the tools.



We wanted the tools to think about the whole person, not just their disability.



And we wanted the tools to understand that people with the same disability might not need the same support.



We couldn't find just 1 tool that could do that for every participant.

This is because the supports you need change at important points in your life such as when:



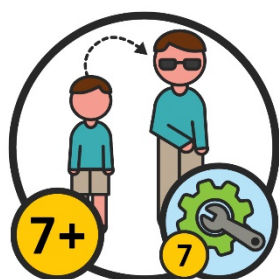
- you turn 18 years old



- you leave school and start working

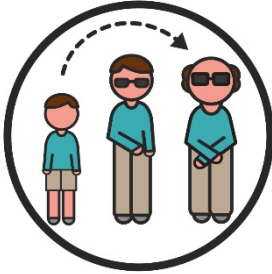


- your life changes in a big way.



We chose 7 tools for participants over 7 years old.

We might use more than 1 tool depending on your:



- age



- disability.



We are still working out the best tools to use for participants under 7 years old.



We will share it on our website when we have finished.

How will we know the tools are working?



We want to make sure independent assessments work the best they can.

We will check if:



- our independent assessment tools are still the best ones to use



- the tools we use work well



- there are new tools we could use.

We will check that each tool works well by asking people what they think, including:



- participants



- carers



- independent assessors.



We will also make sure everyone uses the tools the right way.

More information



You can find out more about independent assessments on our website.

www.ndis.gov.au



If you would like more information about what is in this guide, you can contact us.



www.ndis.gov.au



1800 800 110



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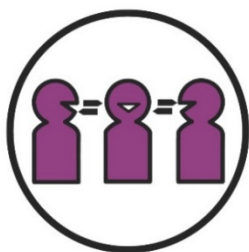
Support to talk to us



You can talk to us online using our webchat feature.

www.ndis.gov.au/webchat/start

If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

131 450

If you have a speech or hearing impairment, you can call:



TTY

1800 555 677



Speak and Listen

1800 555 727



National Relay Service

133 677

www.relayservice.gov.au

Word list

Assessments



We do assessments to work out:

- how your disability affects your life
- what supports you need from the NDIS.

Autism

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- think
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- communicate
- connect and deal with others.

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An assessment is independent when it is done by someone who:



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Independent assessors

Independent assessors:



- don't work for the NDIA
- understand the needs of people with disability
- do your independent assessment with you.

Intellectual disability

An intellectual disability affects how well you can:



- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



Participant

NDIS participants are people with disability who get NDIS supports and services.



Psychosocial disability

A psychosocial disability affects your mental health.

Review



When you review something, you check to see what:

- works well
- needs to be better.



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