



# Supporting children with autism

## A report about what you told us

December 2021

Easy Read version



**ndis**

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

# How to use this report



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



This report is written in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.

**Bold**  
Not bold

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

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 31.



This Easy Read report is a summary of another report.



You can find the other report on our website at [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)



You can ask for help to read this report.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

## What's in this report?

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# What is this report about?

**Autism** is a disability that might affect how you:



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

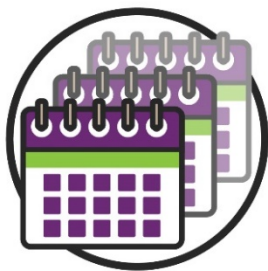


We want to share what the community told us about how we support children with autism.

This includes what:



- we asked the community



- we will do in the future



- the community told us.



We also want to share what the community thought about making some parts of the NDIS:



- easier to use



- fair



- **consistent.**



When something is consistent, it is done the same way every time.

In the community, we heard from:



- people with disability



- families and carers



- service providers



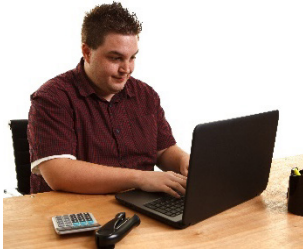
- disability organisations.



The community shared their ideas in different ways.



Some people wrote answers to our questions.



Some people visited our website to answer our questions.



Some people recorded their answers, such as in a video.



Some people talked to us at our online events.



Some people talked to disability organisations.

## What did we ask the community about?



We wrote a paper about what we must think about when we support children with autism.



We published this paper in March 2021.



We shared this paper with the community to find out what they think.



It included questions for the community to answer.





We asked where families would get information about choosing supports and services for children with autism.



We asked how we can help families find and use other supports outside of the NDIS.



We asked if it helps them to hear stories about how parts of the NDIS work.



We asked if it is easy to understand how we use different levels of **funding** for children with autism.



Funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.



We asked how we can best support families to get the information they need to make choices for their child.



This includes how we can:

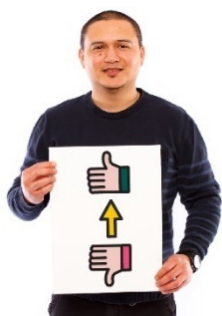
- provide clear information for families
- support families to get information.



You can find all the questions in the Easy Read paper on our website.

[www.ndis.gov.au/community/have-your-say/interventions-children-autism-spectrum](http://www.ndis.gov.au/community/have-your-say/interventions-children-autism-spectrum).

# What will we do in the future?



We want to use what people told us to make the NDIS better.

We will use what people told us when we update:



- our documents



- the way we support people with disability.

We will keep talking with:



- people with disability



- families of children with autism



- the community



- disability organisations.



We will share more information with:



- families of children with autism



- the community.

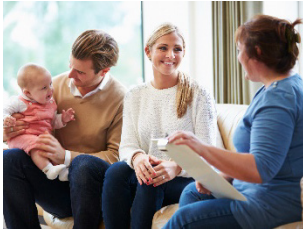
We have already started working on guides about what supports:



- work well



- we fund.



We will support families to make the right decisions for their child.

We have started to work on:



- a guide for families to understand services and supports



- information to support families of children with autism to use their plans.

# What did people tell us?

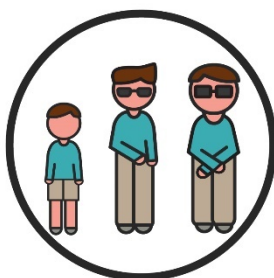
People told us every:



- child with autism is different



- family is different.



People said we need to think about all stages of life for:

- children with autism
- their families.



People said we need to think about how we can provide support to:

- suit each child's needs
- help them learn new skills.

People also said we need to think about the lives of:



- children with more than 1 disability



- their families.



People told us we need to think about how to support children who find out they have autism when they are older.



People told us the NDIS needs to work well with other community supports.



People told us information about supports for children with autism should be:



- helpful



- consistent



- easy to understand.

On the following pages we explain what people told us about:



- finding information



- supports and services



- understanding funding



- making decisions.

## Finding information

People told us they get information from:



- disability organisations for people with autism



- the NDIS website



- the person they usually talk to at the NDIS.



People want to be able to get more information from:

- doctors
- healthcare workers.

They also want to get more information from people who understand autism, such as:



- disability organisations for people with autism



- people with autism



- families of children with autism.



People told us they want to connect with other people who have children with autism.





They said these people can:

- share their experiences
- support them.



Families told us they want information as early as possible that is:

- clear
- true.



Families also told us they want to understand:

- what families need to do
- how their whole family can learn new skills.

## Supports and services



Families said they want more information about different supports and services.



This includes which **service providers** offer which supports and services.



A service provider supports people with disability.

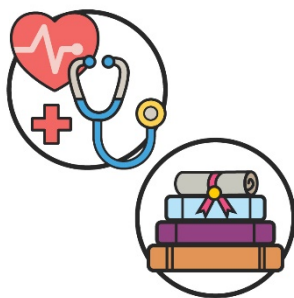
A service provider can be an:



- organisation



- individual.



Families also said they wanted more information about support outside of the NDIS, such as for:

- health
- education.



People also told us we need to find better ways to connect families to other supports and services in their community.

This includes:



- how to find services



- which services work well



- how these services work with the NDIS.



Some people told us they want to be more involved in their child's support.



People also told us it's important to remember each child has their own needs.



People told us supports need to show respect for different people's:

- cultures
- backgrounds.



People also said parents and carers who have children with autism need more support.

## Understanding funding

People told us information about how we work out funding for children with autism needs to be:



- clear



- consistent



- easy to understand.



Most people said stories about how funding works help them.



But people also said they want more stories to show different real life examples.



Some people said we should explain the different levels of funding.



Some people said we need to include more facts and research when we explain funding.

And some people told us we need to use words that are:



- positive



- easy to understand.



People told us we need to show how funding will work for:



- children with more than 1 disability



- children of different ages



- children who live far away from cities

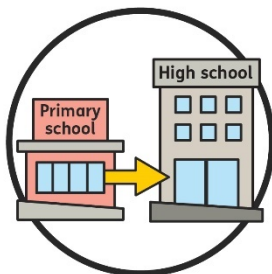


- building the skills of families.



People also told us funding needs to think about children with autism who are going through big life changes.

This can include when a child moves:



- from primary school to high school



- to a new house.



It can also include when something big changes in a child's family.

## Making decisions



We gave families some examples of questions to ask when they find out about services and supports.

Most people told us:



- these questions help



- we should share these questions with families.



But some people worry a service provider won't work with them if they ask questions.



This could be a problem for people who live in areas where there aren't many service providers.



People told us we should get service providers and families to work together to find out what's best for everyone.



People told us we need to give them the right information about the supports their child will need.



They also said we should tell them about local supports.



People said this will help them make their own choices.

## More information

For more information about this report,  
please contact us.



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



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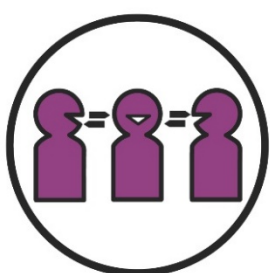
## Support to talk to us



You can talk to us online using our webchat feature.

[www.ndis.gov.au/webchat/start](http://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](http://www.relayservice.gov.au)



# Word list

## Autism



Autism is a disability that might affect how well you can:

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



## Consistent

When something is consistent, it is done the same way every time.



## Funding

Funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.

## Service provider

A service provider supports people with disability.

A service provider can be an:

- organisation
- individual.



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