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What disability evidence is

You may need to provide evidence of your disability or developmental delay for children younger than 6, when you apply to the NDIS. This helps us decide whether you meet the disability or early intervention access requirements.

Different health practitioners can provide specific evidence to help us understand your disability and impairments. The type of evidence we need depends on your disability and impairments.

Evidence can be informal or formal

Evidence from your treating health professional can include:

- completing a supporting evidence form
- completing the evidence of psychosocial disability form
- filling in section 2 of the access request form
- providing existing reports, assessments or letters
- writing a letter or email.

Documents

Download the forms you need:

- Supporting evidence form (PDF 243.98KB)
- Evidence of psychosocial disability form (DOCX 318.9KB)
- Evidence of psychosocial disability form (PDF 654.2KB)

What best practice evidence for primary disabilities is like

Acquired brain injury (ABI)

You can gather evidence from your treating health professionals, primarily your ABI health professionals.

Disability evidence in preference order

1. Care and Needs Scale (CANS) for 17 years and over
2. World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS) 2.0 for 17 years and over
3. PEDI-CAT for 16 years and under.

Autism

You can gather evidence from your health professionals, including any member of a multidisciplinary team, such as a:

- paediatrician
- psychologist
- psychiatrist
- occupational therapist
- speech therapist.

Disability evidence in preference order

1. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fifth edition (DSM-5)
2. Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale (Vineland-III)
3. World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS) 2.0 for 17 years and over
4. PEDI-CAT for 16 years and under.

Cerebral palsy

You can gather evidence from your treating health professionals, including any member of a multidisciplinary team, such as a:

- occupational therapist
- physical therapist
- paediatrician
- physiotherapist.

Disability evidence in preference order

1. Gross Motor Function Classification System (GMFCS)
2. Other: Manual Ability Classification System (MACS)
3. Other: Communication Function Classification System (CFCS).

Hearing impairment

You can gather evidence from your treating health professionals, primarily your audiologist.

Disability evidence in preference order

1. Hearing impairment responses and groupings guide for 17 years and over
2. PEDI-CAT for 16 years and under
3. Other: Hearing acuity score.

Intellectual disability, developmental delay, global developmental delay and Down syndrome

You can gather evidence from your treating health professionals, including any member of a multidisciplinary team, such as a:

- paediatrician
- psychologist
- occupational therapist
- speech therapist.

Disability evidence in preference order

1. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fifth edition (DSM-5)
2. Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale (Vineland-III)
3. World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS) 2.0 for 17 years and over or PEDI-CAT for 16 years and under.

Multiple sclerosis

You can gather evidence from your treating health professionals, primarily your neurologist or disease steps trained nurse examiner.

Disability evidence in preference order

1. Disease Steps (DS)
2. Patient-Determined Disease Steps (PDDS)
3. Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS).

Psychosocial disability

You can gather evidence from your treating health professionals, such as a:

- paediatrician
- psychiatrist
- GP
- psychologist.

You can also gather evidence from specialist health professionals, such as:

- clinical psychiatric staff such as mental health or psychiatric nurses, occupational therapists and social workers
- mental health allied health professionals
- Australian Mental Health Outcomes and Classification Network (AMHOCN) trained mental health staff including mental health peer workers.

Disability evidence

You'll need a statement from a treating health professional, including information about:

- how long they have been working with you
- evidence of the mental health condition (a diagnosis is helpful, if available)
- treatments you have explored and any you have not tried, with reasons
- how your mental health condition impacts on your everyday life (a functional assessment may be helpful).

Functional capacity assessments

You'll also need a functional capacity assessment. These can be done by your health professional.

They may include:

- Life Skills Profile 16 measure (LSP-16)

- Health of the Nation Outcome Scales (HoNOS)
- World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS).

Spinal cord injury

You can gather evidence from your treating health professionals, including any member of a multidisciplinary team, such as a:

- neurologist
- physiotherapist
- occupational therapist
- recreational therapist
- psychologist
- psychiatrist.

Disability evidence in preference order

- Level of lesion
- American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) Impairment Scale (AIS)
- World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS) 2.0 for 17 years and over
- PEDI-CAT for 16 years and under.

Stroke

You can gather evidence from your treating health professionals, primarily your neurologist.

Disability evidence

- Modified Rankin Scale (mRS).

Vision impairment

You can gather evidence from your treating health professionals, primarily your ophthalmologist.

Disability evidence in preference order

- Impact of Vision Impairment (IVI) questionnaire for 17 years and over
- PEDI-CAT for 16 years and under
- Other: Visual acuity rating.

Other disabilities

Other disabilities may require evidence from the following health professionals:

- paediatrician
- occupational therapist
- speech therapist
- physiotherapist
- social worker
- GP.

Disability evidence in preference order

- World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule (WHODAS) 2.0 for 17 years and over
- PEDI-CAT for 16 years and under.

Related information

What is a functional capacity assessment

How to gather evidence

What are the disability requirements

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