



Mainstream interface: Mental health services

Supports the NDIS will fund in relation to mental health services

About the NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (the Scheme) is a new way of providing community linking and individualised support for people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (the Agency) was established to implement the Scheme.

The Agency will build relationships with mainstream service providers and the local community. This will improve their understanding about how they can assist people with disability.

What supports related to mental health support will the Scheme fund?

The access requirements for the Scheme include people with a psychiatric condition who have significant and permanent functional impairment. Most of these participants will have support needs from both the Scheme and the health and mental health system.

Other participants in the Scheme (i.e. those with disability other than a psychiatric condition) may also require mental health services and supports from time to time.

Supports funded by the Scheme

The Scheme will fund supports that assist a person to undertake activities of daily living.

This includes:

- assistance with planning and decision making and household tasks
- assistance to build capacity to live independently and achieve their goals, such as building social relationships, as well as financial management and tenancy management skills
- supports to engage in community activities such as recreation, education, training and employment.

Participants can choose to access their funded supports through centre-based services, in-home, day services, community access and outreach services.

Supports funded by the health and mental health system

The health and mental health systems have responsibility for assisting participants with clinical and medical treatment.

The health and mental health systems are responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric conditions and mental illness.

This includes:

- all medical and clinical services such as general practitioners, mental health treatment by psychiatrists or psychologists
- care while admitted in hospital, in-patient and residential care
- medications and pharmaceuticals

The health system is also responsible for other health related services such as dental care, palliative care and nursing care.

Individuals and families sometimes also have a role in funding the medical and clinical services, such as out of pocket expenses or gap payments. The Scheme will not cover these costs.

Which system assists with early intervention for mental health?

The Scheme is based on supporting participants who have a permanent functional impairment as a result of their disability or a psychiatric condition.

Early interventions in the Scheme are funded where these reduce the participant's future needs for supports.

People with early signs of a psychiatric condition should be assisted by the health system in the first instance. This is because the supports that the health system offers are appropriate to assist a person to diagnose and manage a psychiatric condition.

The supports offered by the Scheme will assist the person to address the functional impact of their psychiatric condition. These supports are generally not the type of assistance that a person requires at the first signs of a psychiatric condition, but may be appropriate for people who have permanent and significant functional impairments as a result of a psychiatric condition.

What happens if the health and mental health system doesn't fund the supports I need?

If the health or mental system is responsible for a support, the Scheme cannot fund that support, even if these other systems do not provide it.

However, the Scheme may still be able to provide assistance to participants for example, a Local Area Coordinator can assist the participant to make contact and discuss their needs with appropriate healthcare providers where appropriate.

What happens next?

Participants and their families will discuss their goals with the Agency as part of their planning conversation.

The participant's plan will include the supports the Scheme will fund for participants and those supports which are the responsibility of the health and mental health system (where appropriate).

More information

- Visit ndis.gov.au
- Email enquiries@ndis.gov.au
- Call 1800 800 110* Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm EST.

For people with hearing or speech loss:

- TTY: 1800 555 677
- Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727
- For people who need help with English TIS: 131 450

*1800 calls are free from fixed lines; however calls from mobiles may be charged.