

Every Australian  
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NDIS

# Guide to meeting with your Member of Parliament (MP)

NDIS assessments



ndis

World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0

WHODAS 2.0

This questionnaire asks about difficulties due to health/mental health conditions. Health conditions include diseases or illnesses, injuries, mental or emotional problems, and problems with alcohol or drugs. Think back over the past 30 days and answer these questions thinking about how much difficulty you had doing the following activities. For each question, please circle only one response.

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Response scores assigned for each of the items:

Item	None	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme or cannot do
D1.1 Understanding and communicating					
D1.2 Concentrating on doing something for 15 minutes?					
D1.3 Remembering to do important things?					
D1.4 Analyzing and finding solutions to problems in day-to-day life?					
D1.5 Learning a new task, for example, learning how to get to a new place?					
D1.6 Generally understanding what people say?					
D2.1 Starting and maintaining a conversation?					
D2.2 Standing for long periods, such as 30 minutes?					
D2.3 Standing up from sitting down?					
D2.4 Moving around inside your home?					
D2.5 Getting out of your home?					
D3.1 Washing your whole body?					
D3.2 Getting dressed?					

ndis

# Guide to meeting with your Member of Parliament (MP)

## NDIS assessments

**Members of Parliament are elected to represent us. It is their job to take our issues and concerns back to Parliament and work on our behalf. But they can't do that if they don't know what is important to us.**

The Minister for the NDIS Stuart Robert wants to introduce compulsory assessments to the NDIS from next year.

This is the biggest change to the NDIS since the scheme started in 2013.

But it is being introduced in a big hurry – without talking or listening to people with disability and their families first.

We have all been emailing the Minister. But we still don't have answers.

**So it's time to take it to our local MPs.**

### We want our MPs to do five things:

1

**Raise the issue of NDIS assessments with the Minister for the NDIS Stuart Robert**

2

**Raise the issue of NDIS assessments within their party room**

3

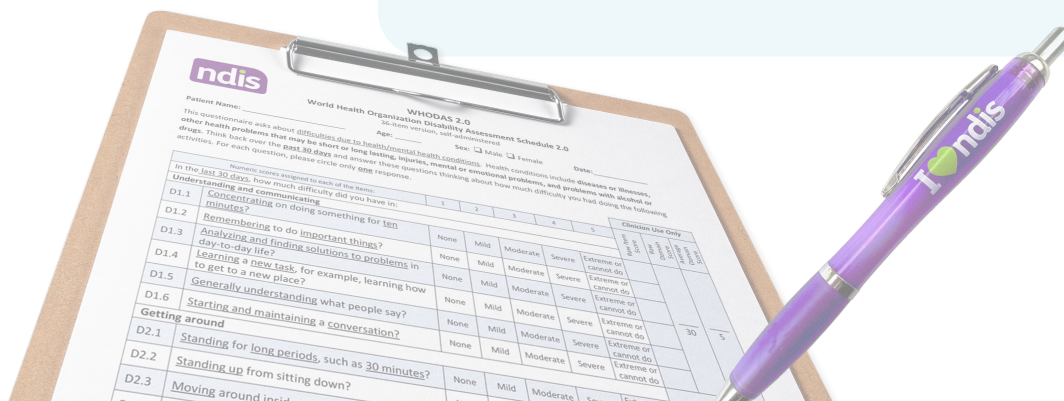
**Raise the issue of NDIS assessments in Parliament**

4

**Call on the government to design a proper consultation and codesign process with people with disability and their families to fix the problems with the NDIS**

5

**Stop the changes to the NDIS legislation going through if there is not a co-design process**



# Five easy steps to meeting your MP

## Step 1

Talking to your MP is not as scary as it sounds. Just five easy steps.

### 1. Find out who your local MP is

If you don't know that's ok – you can use the [Look up your MP](#) tool on our website.

The name of your federal electorate, your MP, and the party they belong to will appear after you type your postcode in.

Some postcodes include more than one federal electorate. If that happens you will need to choose which electorate you are in.

**Your Postcode**

Your postcode contains multiple electorates. Please select the correct one:

☐ Chisholm

☐ Deakin

If you're not sure which electorate you are in you can find out using the Australian Electoral Commission's [Find my electorate tool](#).

Now you are ready to email your MP.

#### Look up who your local MP is - and ask to meet them

First Name

Jane

Last Name

Doe

Your Email

janedoe@email.com

Your Postcode

3131

Your electorate is Chisholm

We will send your message to:

- Gladys Liu, Liberal Party of Australia

#### Compose your email

Subject Line

Request for meeting about NDIS assessments

Message

#### Want to call your MP?

You can find all of your MPs contact details from the [Parliament website](#)



# Five easy steps to meeting your MP

## Step 2

## 2. Send an email and ask for a meeting

Use the email template at the end of this guide to write an email to your MP. Or use [the email form](#) on our website.

Ask for a meeting to discuss your concerns about NDIS Assessments. Don't forget to include your name and contact details. And it is really important to tell them that you live in their electorate – otherwise your request might go straight to the bin!

If you would like to meet face to face and it is safe for you to do so, you can ask for a meeting in person. But you can also ask for a phone meeting. Or using video chat software like Zoom/Teams/Skype. Just do whatever works best and is safest for you.

After you have sent your email, wait for two days then phone the MP's office to ask if they have received your email and when they can organise a meeting.

Make sure you explain why you are calling. You can say something like this:

**“Hi, I am calling because I sent an email to [MP name] about meeting with them to talk about a big change to the NDIS that I am very concerned about.”**

**“Hello, I would like to speak with [MP name] about NDIS assessments and being heard in parliament.”**

If you are planning on meeting them in person, don't forget to ask if their office is accessible. If it isn't, make sure this is an issue you raise with them. And please drop us a line and let us know.

You will also need to tell them if you need support to make the meeting accessible – like interpreters or captioning.

If you are feeling nervous about the meeting that's OK – it can help to take a friend. Just let the MP's office know who will be with you.



# Five easy steps to meeting your MP

## Step 3

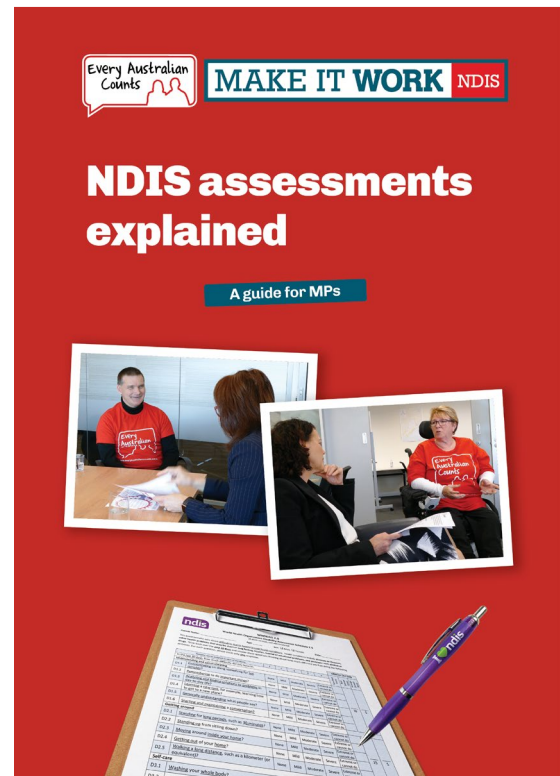
### 3. Once the meeting date is set

It is likely that you will only have about 30 minutes for the meeting.

It can be handy to jot down the main points you want to make so you don't forget.

It's also a good idea to leave a bit of time for questions so your MP can make sure they really understand the issues you are talking about.

Before you go, download [NDIS Assessments explained](#) from the Every Australian Counts website. You can leave it behind with the MP to read after the meeting.



**Don't worry** – you don't have to be an expert on NDIS assessments. You just need to focus on your experience of the NDIS and what your questions and concerns are.



Matt	3/28
Louise	4/30
Alexia	6/27
Brian	8/06



NDIS 2.0  
Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Health conditions include diseases or illnesses, mental or emotional problems, and problems with alcohol or drugs. Think back over the past 30 days and answer these questions thinking about how much difficulty you had doing the following activities. For each question, please circle only one response.

Item	1	2	3	4	5	Comments Use Only
D1.1 Understanding and communicating						
D1.2 Remembering to do important things?						
D1.3 Analyzing and finding solutions to problems in day-to-day life?						
D1.4 Learning a new task, for example, learning how to get to a new place?						
D1.5 Generally understanding what people say?						
D1.6 Starting and maintaining a conversation?						
D2.1 Standing for long periods, such as 30 minutes?						
D2.2 Standing up from sitting down?						
D2.3 Moving around inside your house?						

# Five easy steps to meeting your MP

## Step 4

### 4. At the meeting

Introduce yourself and anyone who has come with you.

Get someone to take notes if possible.

Explain why you are meeting. Explain why you are so concerned about the introduction of NDIS Assessments, and what you want your MP to do about it.

Talk about your own experience with the NDIS. And what your questions and concerns are.

Leave the “NDIS Assessments explained” paper with them so they can read through it later.

Tell them you want them to do five things:

- 1. Raise the issue of NDIS assessments with the Minister for the NDIS Stuart Robert**
- 2. Raise the issue of NDIS assessments within their party room**
- 3. Raise the issue of NDIS assessments in Parliament**
- 4. Call on the government to design a proper consultation and codesign process with people with disability and their families to fix the problems with the NDIS**
- 5. Stop the changes to the NDIS legislation going through if there is not a co-design process**

And let them know you will be back in touch in a few weeks for an update.

# Five easy steps to meeting your MP

## Step 5

### 5. Finally ... let us know how it went

Drop us a line at [submissions@everyaustraliancounts.com.au](mailto:submissions@everyaustraliancounts.com.au) and let us know how the meeting went.

We will also start a gallery on our website so we know which MPs have been visited – and which MPs still need to hear from people with disability and their families who live in their electorate.



# Example email to ask for a meeting

Dear [MP name],

My name is [your name] and I live in [suburb]. I live in your electorate.

I am writing to you as my local MP to express my concern about planned changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. I would like to arrange a meeting to talk about the changes and the impact they will have on my life.

The Minister for the NDIS Stuart Robert and the National Disability Insurance Agency have announced that all new and existing NDIS participants will now have to undergo compulsory assessments to be able to get support from the scheme.

These changes will be introduced early next year.

The NDIS does need some changes so that it works for everyone. But I am really worried that instead of fixing the problems, the government is rushing in something new that looks like it will add even more red tape and just put people with disability into convenient “boxes” to save money.

I am a [participant in the NDIS/family member of an NDIS participant/both/other].

I do not think these changes will work in my circumstances [add a short explanation of your concerns].

As my local MP I would love to meet you and talk about the planned changes so you are aware of the impact they will have on people like me in your community.

I can be contacted [by phone, by video chat, or I can meet you at your local office].

Regards,

[Your name]

**Tip!** To make it a bit easier you can use our quick online form to email your MP using the words above (just remember to edit the words in brackets).

