

## MAKE IT WORK NDIS



# Talking about the NDIS with your Member of Parliament (MP)





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#### **About this document**



The information in this booklet is written in an easy to read way.



We use pictures to explain ideas.

#### normal **bold**

Some words are written in thick **bold** letters.



We explain what these words mean.



This document is an Easy Read version of <a href="https://everyaustraliancounts.com.au/">https://everyaustraliancounts.com.au/</a> <a href="mailto:meet-your-mp/">meet-your-mp/</a>



You can ask someone to help you read this.

A family member, friend or support person could help.

#### **Every Australian Counts**



We are **Every Australian Counts**.



Every Australian Counts is the group that fought for the introduction of the **National Disability Insurance Scheme**.



People call it the **NDIS** for short.



Every Australian Counts is a big group of

- people with disability
- families
- and people who work in disability

#### Why we made this document



Every Australian Counts wants people with disability and their families to go and talk to their local Federal **Member of Parliament**.

People say **MP** for short.



We want people to talk about the NDIS with their local MP.



This document explains

- how to find your local MP
- how to ask for a meeting



It also gives you some ideas about what to talk about.

#### **Independent assessments**



The NDIS is making plans to introduce something called **independent assessments**.



Independent assessments are like a test.

- There are lots of questions
- They try to measure what effect your disability has on your life
- They try to measure what you can do
- They also try to measure what you cannot do





Health workers like psychologists or speech therapists will do these assessments.



You might have already done an assessment like this before with a therapist or a doctor.



This time the assessment will not be done by someone you know.

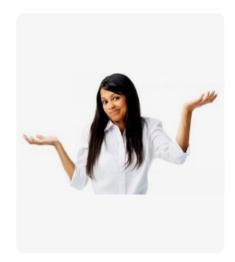


It will be done by someone the NDIS chooses.

#### People are worried



Lots of people with disability and their families are worried about assessments.



They do not understand

- why they are being introduced
- how it will affect them
- how it will affect their NDIS plan and funds



We think the **government** should talk to people with disability and their families before making big changes to the NDIS.

#### Members of Parliament (MPs)



In the Australian **Parliament** there are 151 Members of Parliament.

Members of Parliament are called **MPs** for short.



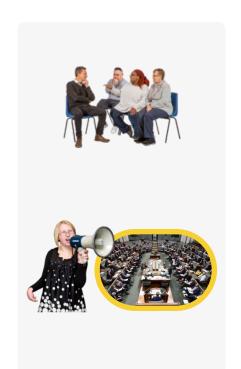
Every MP represents a certain area.

These areas are called **electorates**.



Part of an MP's job is to

- listen to the people who live in their electorate
- speak for them in Parliament



#### We want MPs to

- Have meetings with people with disability and families
- Understand why people are worried about independent assessments
- Tell the government what we want
- Speak up for us in Parliament



#### You can meet with your MP to

- Talk about your experience with the NDIS
- Tell your MP why you are worried about independent assessments.

#### Find out who your local MP is



There is a form on our website.

https://everyaustraliancounts.com.au/ meet-your-mp/



Type into the form

- Your name
- Your email address
- Your postcode

Your postcode is the 4 numbers that go at the end of your address.



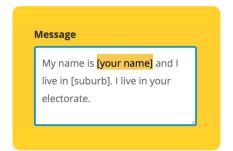
Your MP's name will show up.

#### Send your MP an email



There is an email to send to your MP in the form.

We wrote the email.



You have to add some words in the email.

Those words are inside **square brackets**.



You can change the message in the email.

Or you can leave it the same.

It is your choice.



You can say if you want to have a meeting

- in person
- over the phone
- on a video call



Send the email.



Wait 2 days.



Then call your MP.

Ask them if they got your email.

Ask them when they can meet with you.



#### You could say something like



Hi, I am calling because I sent an email to my MP.

I want to meet with them and talk about a big change to the NDIS that I am very worried about.



Ask them to set up a date and time for the meeting.

## Get ready for the meeting



The meeting will not be very long. It might be 30 minutes.



Before the meeting think about what you want to say to your MP.



You can write down a few notes to help you remember the most important things.



Then you can take the notes with you.



You can also take someone with you to the meeting.

That might be a family member or a friend.

They can help you remember what you want to say.



We have made a booklet about independent assessments for MPs.

It is called **NDIS** assessments explained.



It is on our website

http://everyaustraliancounts.com.au/

wp-content/uploads/

NDIS-Assessments-explained.pdf



You need to download it before your meeting.

Then you can give it to your MP at the meeting.

#### At the meeting



Introduce yourself and anyone who has come with you.



Tell your MP why you are meeting with them.



Tell your MP why you are worried about independent assessments.



Talk about your experience of the NDIS.



Tell your MP you want them to speak up for you in Parliament.



Tell your MP that you want them to talk to the government for you.



We want the government to talk to people with disability and their families before making big changes to the NDIS.



Leave the NDIS assessments explained booklet with your MP so they can read it later.

### After the meeting



Tell us about your meeting.

We want to know how it went.



You can send us an email.

Our email address is submissions@everyaustraliancounts.com.au



You can tell us

- What is your MP's name?
- Did your MP listen to you?
- Did your MP say they would help?