

Every Australian Counts

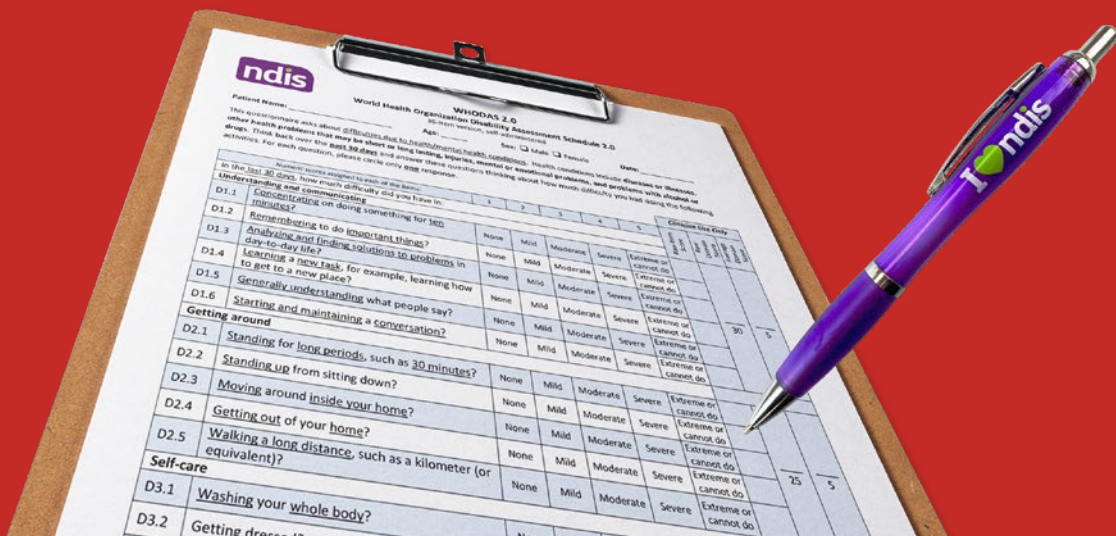


MAKE IT WORK

NDIS

# NDIS assessments explained

A guide for MPs



# NDIS at the crossroads



## NDIS assessments

The NDIS was built on the promise of treating people with a disability as full individuals with the power to shape their own future.

It promised people would be treated as individuals – not as numbers. The NDIS planning process would look at the impact of their disability on their daily life and what support they needed to achieve their goals.

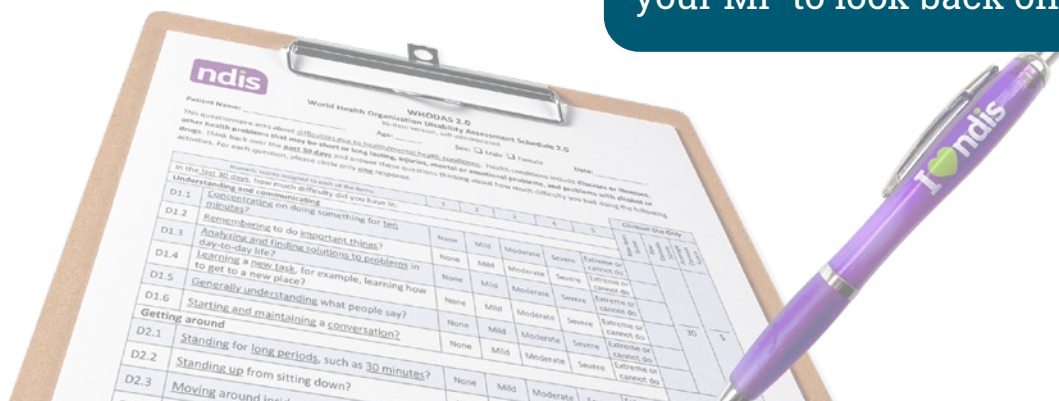
Once through the planning process, people with disability would be in the driver's seat. They would be able to decide the best way to use their funding to meet their needs and suit their circumstances.

After six years it would be fair to say that many people's experience of the scheme has fallen short of this vision.

**But instead of making the planning process work better, the Government has determined the answer lies in creating a new, bureaucratic system of "independent assessments". These compulsory assessments are aimed at reducing complexity and putting people back into convenient boxes.**

Rather than asking: "what do you need"; these assessors will ask "where do you fit".

**Tip for people with disability & families**  
Leave this booklet with your MP to look back on.



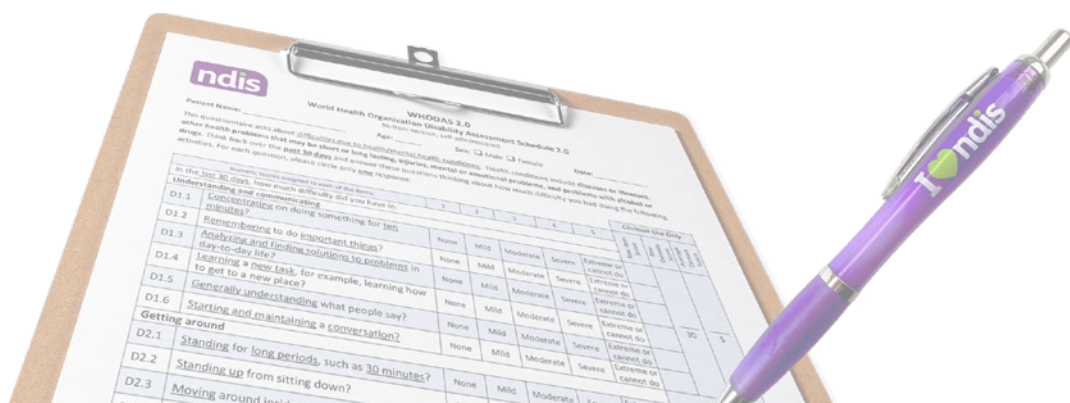
# NDIS at the crossroads



## NDIS assessments

### So what is changing?

- All new and existing NDIS participants will now have to go through a compulsory assessment.
- These assessments may take as little as 20 minutes. And they will determine if you are eligible for the scheme or what support you might get.
- The NDIS is contracting an organisation to carry out these assessments. They will be done by allied health professionals using standard tools chosen by the NDIS. People's own therapists cannot do the assessments.
- There was a small pilot conducted a year ago of this approach. Many people with disability and their families expressed concern.
- The first trial was voluntary. It did not test key parts of this new process – including what impact assessments would have on NDIS plans and funding.
- Very little information has been released about this first trial. And a second trial was cancelled due to COVID19.
- And despite all of this - now the government is introducing these assessments nationwide. Not just for people entering the scheme but also for every single existing NDIS participant.



# Four basic questions for the government

## NDIS assessments

Before the government gives up on the vision of the NDIS, people with disability and their families have four basic questions that deserve an answer from the government.

**1** Will the assessments paid for by the NDIS be the only thing that determines eligibility for the NDIS? What if you have other assessments and evidence? How will they be used?

**2** Will the assessments paid for the NDIS be the only thing that determines NDIS plan and your funding? How will this standardised process capture individual needs and circumstances?

**3** Why is this being rushed through? Why are the recommendations of the Tune Review being ignored? Why won't the government stop this process and consult properly with people with disability and their families?

**4** How can people with disability and their families be assured this is not simply a cost cutting exercise to reduce access to the scheme? And reduce support for existing NDIS participants? What guarantee will the government give that people will not be worse off?

And we need straight answers - not spin.

**People with disability and their families want the government to stop this before it goes any further.**

They want them to go back to the drawing board. They want proper meaningful consultation about the problems with the scheme and the best way to fix them.

They want solutions that will be fair – and that will work for them.

# Why I'm concerned about NDIS assessments

## My story

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.

Jot down some dot points for your MP to help them understand why this matters to you personally.



# Five things MPs can do

## NDIS assessments

We want our MPs to do five things:

**1**

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

**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**