



Thriving Kids – Questions and Answers

Updated as at 17 October 2025

How will Thriving Kids affect children accessing the NDIS now?

Children who are already on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will continue to receive supports, subject to usual arrangements, including reassessments.

Reforms to NDIS access, and the establishment of additional supports outside the NDIS, will be carefully designed with early childhood experts and families.

Reforms will carefully consider the impact on existing participants including timing and transition arrangements for children.

Will children who need supports still have access to allied health and necessary therapies with no out-of-pocket costs under Thriving Kids?

The design of Thriving Kids is yet to be finalised. It is envisaged to offer a range of capacity building and early intervention supports.

Design work includes consideration of evidence-based, best-practice allied health supports for those who need them.

Ensuring children and their families have effective access is a key design consideration.

The Australian Government will continue to work with state and territory governments, and engage with experts and the community, to inform the final design and delivery of Thriving Kids.

What does the Australian Government mean by ‘mild’ or ‘moderate’ autism? Will children with Level 1 or Level 2 autism diagnoses be removed from the NDIS?

Thriving Kids aims to support children aged 8 and under with low to moderate support needs and their families, carers and kin. The NDIS will continue to support children with significant and permanent disability support needs. This reform is about supporting people in a way most suited to the level of assistance they require.

Will you be moving people with Autism off the NDIS?

Thriving Kids is being developed to support children earlier in their developmental journey. This includes children with neurodevelopmental differences who have low to moderate support needs.

The Australian Government wants to support and empower parents around their child's development. This means linking them to trusted information, evidence-based parenting supports, and early intervention supports where these are needed to achieve good outcomes. Children with significant and permanent disability support needs will still be able to access the NDIS.

When will Thriving Kids start?

Thriving Kids is expected to roll out in phases. The first services are expected to be available from 1 July 2026. More services will continue to roll out over 12 months.

This will ensure national services are in place ahead of broader changes to NDIS access arrangements from mid-2027.

More information on how to access information, advice and relevant services will be shared once design work is further progressed.

What else is the Australian Government doing to ensure the sustainability of the NDIS?

The Australian Government is committed to the sustainability of the NDIS so the Scheme can continue to provide life-changing outcomes for future generations of Australians with significant and permanent disability support needs.

The Australian Government is working with state and territory governments to achieve an annual growth target in total NDIS costs of no more than 8 per cent by 1 July 2026, with further moderation of growth as the NDIS matures over the medium term.

There are a range of reforms underway to improve the participant experience, safety, and sustainability of the NDIS. These include:

- providing clarity and certainty to participants and providers about what NDIS participants can and cannot spend their funding on, with a new definition of NDIS supports
- designing and implementing a fairer and more consistent planning process, with a flexible participant budget based on a new support needs assessment and budget method
- establishing funding periods to support participants to plan and manage their budget, so funding lasts for the full length of the plan

- cracking down on fraud and integrity issues to ensure taxpayers' money is spent on support that makes a real difference to people's lives
- improving regulation and taking strong action against providers that fail to provide safe NDIS services to people with disability.