

Technical Advisory Group on NDIS Functional Capacity – Communiqué

5 August 2026

Professor Christine Imms and Ms Mary Wood, Deputy Secretary, Disability and Carers Group, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, co-chaired the second meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on NDIS Functional Capacity (TAG) today.

The meeting began with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) leading a presentation on the current NDIS access process. Discussion in the group focused on the participant experience, and challenges interpreting key access concepts in the legislation into consistent administrative decision making.

Members discussed options for a draft framework for assessing functional capacity for the purposes of NDIS access. A framework would guide the development and delivery of an assessment approach and decision-making model that supports consistent, fair and evidence-based access decisions. Discussion focused on the key concepts and design questions that need to be resolved as part of delivering a framework. Members acknowledged the need to create clear definitions for determining reduced functional capacity, to give clarity to people with disability, families, carers, the broader disability community and decision makers. The TAG agreed that a framework will be important for supporting transparency, consistency, and community understanding.

Members also discussed existing functional capacity assessment tools. Members explored how available tools may be used to inform a standardised assessment approach for NDIS access. It was noted that there is no single tool suitable for supporting all NDIS access decisions. A suite of assessment tools will most likely be required. The need to streamline the assessment process for those who would clearly meet the NDIS access criteria was also discussed.

TAG co-conveners the Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Ageing and Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, ACT Minister for Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity, attended a session of the meeting. Ministers were briefed by members on the discussions around a draft framework and the approach to identifying appropriate assessment tools.

Members discussed ongoing stakeholder engagement and consultation activity, including the public consultation process planned for August and September 2026.

For further information, please contact the TAG Secretariat at TAGSecretariat@health.gov.au.