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National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the
NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026

Question and answer briefing

May 2026

Released under the Freedom of Information Act 1992 by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

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Top frequently asked questions

1. Is there an immediate impact on participants? When do changes take effect?

- The Government has released an implementation timeline that explains when each of the changes in this Bill will come into effect.
- Some changes will come into effect shortly after Royal Assent, while others will be implemented gradually over time.
- Changes introduced through this Bill will improve the quality and reliability of supports, protect participants from harm and exploitation, and ensure the NDIS continues to support those who need it most. They will make the NDIS fairer and more consistent and ensure participants receive quality supports that deliver good outcomes.
- Most of the immediate changes relate to the operation of the Scheme. Participants will see changes over time through the normal plan reassessment process or when plans are renewed. This will result in changes to:
 - o the amounts and in some cases types of supports they receive, including reductions to social, civic and community participation and capacity building daily activities supports for all participants,
 - o how plan end dates work, with plan renewals replacing plan continuations,
 - o how unscheduled plan reassessments work, including the criteria for when a unscheduled reassessment can be accepted and who is able to request an unscheduled reassessment being tightened.
- Over time, current and prospective participants who: do not have substantially reduced functional capacity; have treatable impairments, or are eligible for other service systems will not be able to access the NDIS.
- These people will access supports through other service systems or alternative supports better aligned with their personal circumstances.

2. Is there an immediate impact on providers or workers? What are the key changes that will impact them?

- Changes won't only impact participants. There will also be some changes for providers and workers.
- Some changes will come into place immediately after the introduction of this Bill. These include:
 - o Providers and people providing supports to NDIS participants will need to keep records for 7 years after providing the service.
 - o **s 47C**
 - o Plan managers, support coordinators and other entities who are not the participant themselves, their nominee or guardian will not be authorised to request an unscheduled reassessment on behalf of a participant.
 - o Budget amounts for social, civic and community participation and capacity building daily activities will be reduced. This will occur from 1 October 2026 and providers will need to work with participants to implement the reduced funding amounts in a way

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that works for participants, and is aligned with the NDIS Pricing Arrangements. This may mean that support workers need to provide more shared supports for participants in the community.

- s 47C [REDACTED]
- Further changes will take place in 2027 and 2028 that impact providers and people who deliver supports for participants. Further details on these changes will be made available closer to the date. These changes include:
 - o Commissioning plan management (from 1 October 2027) and support coordination (from 1 July 2028)
 - o Mandatory registration for providers delivering high risk supports (from July 2027)
 - o Enrolment with the NDIA by providing a nominated bank account for payments (between July and December 2027).
- New framework planning will impact how providers and workers across the NDIS market and ecosystem work. Further details on how this will impact participants, providers and the disability community will be shared closer to new framework planning rollout (1 April 2027).

2.3. Is this a threat to the Scheme?

- The NDIS is one of Australia's most important social reforms. The costs to deliver the NDIS have risen at a rate far higher than other comparable programs. This Bill is designed to put the NDIS on a more sustainable path so that it is always here to support people with disability.
- The Government has made changes in recent years to slow the growth in costs to deliver the NDIS. Challenges remain because the Scheme has deviated from its original intent – to support people with significant and permanent disability – as well as continued inflation in participant plans and support costs.
- Continued, uncontrolled cost increases are unsustainable and, if left unchecked, would put the future of the NDIS – and its ability to support people with disability – at risk.
- This Bill takes practical, measured steps to put the NDIS on a more sustainable path and refocus it on people with significant and permanent disability, consistent with its original intent.
- The Government continues to engage with the disability community about these changes. The Government has also released several factsheets as well as an implementation roadmap to clarify what changes will occur and when.

3.4. Don't you have compassion for NDIS participants with permanent and significant disability who may have to get reassessed for NDIS eligibility again?

- This Bill is designed to refocus the NDIS on people with significant and permanent disability so it can better support them, now and in the long term. It is not designed to remove them from the Scheme or make their lives more difficult.
- Changes to the design and operation of the Scheme will always be made with the interests of people with disability at the centre, as is the case with this Bill.

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- The usual NDIS eligibility reassessment process involves reviewing whether some participants who do not have significant and permanent disability still meet the criteria to remain in the [Scheme](#).
- This Bill will not result in an immediate eligibility reassessment of all participants. There will be no changes to the assessment of access and eligibility prior to 1 January 2028, to allow time for rules to determine thresholds to be implemented.
- From 1 January 2028 existing participants will begin to be progressively reassessed over 2 years. The way this reassessment happens will be subject to the advice of the Technical Advisory Group.
- People with permanent and significant disability will continue to be able to access the NDIS.

4.5. How are you going to reset participants' social and community participation spending?

Participant support budgets for social, civic and community participation (SCCP) supports and capacity building daily activities (CBDA) supports will be progressively reset from 1 October 2026.

- All participant budgets for these supports will be reset as they go through renewal or reassessment.
- These changes will be implemented under existing planning arrangements, ahead of the introduction of new framework planning from 1 April 2027.
- This change will not impact budgets for critical supports, for example:
 - o Supports in home (e.g. to help with eating, drinking, dressing, toileting, laundry, cleaning, community nursing care, help with medication, etc.)
 - o Home and vehicle modifications
 - o Personal mobility equipment and transport
 - o Consumable products to help with incontinence and menstruation
 - o Specialist Disability Accommodation.
- Participants can continue to work with providers on how to use their budget and get the most out of their supports. This must always be within the limits of the NDIS Pricing Arrangements.

5.6. How will people get the support they need outside the NDIS when there is an absence of fully developed alternative supports? You haven't even rolled out Thriving Kids.

- The NDIS was never supposed to replace mainstream service systems or alternative supports. It was designed to support people with significant and permanent disability.
- The Independent NDIS Review recommended the establishment of Foundational Supports, to ensure the NDIS is part of a broader support system to support people with disability.
- The changes in this Bill will be supported by the significant investments the Commonwealth and states and territories have made – and will continue to make – into alternative support systems.
- This year all governments signed the National Agreement on Foundational Supports. This included a commitment to invest up to \$10 billion into alternative supports over the next 5 years. The first cohort for Foundational Supports is Thriving Kids, for children aged 8 and under with developmental delay and/or autism and low to moderate support needs.

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- Future cohorts for further Foundational Supports will be agreed between the Commonwealth and states and territories, in line with the National Agreement on Foundational Supports.
- The Government is also establishing a \$200 million Inclusive Communities Fund to rebuild capability among community organisations to host genuine participation activities [for NDIS participants](#). The design of the Fund will be subject to further consultation with the community.
- Thriving Kids will commence from 1 October 2026. NDIS eligibility changes are not part of this Bill. They are subject to work with states and territories on the design of Thriving Kids. This means that Thriving Kids will be fully operational and ready to support children aged 8 and under with developmental delay and/or autism and who may no longer be eligible for the NDIS from January 2028.

6-7. Why are you targeting participants when you could achieve larger savings through fighting fraud?

- This Bill is not designed to target participants. It is designed to put the NDIS on a more sustainable path so it is always here for people with disability.
- The costs to deliver the NDIS have become unsustainable because of a range of factors, not fraud and non-compliance alone. Even with measures to reduce fraud and non-compliance, the costs of the Scheme are far beyond what was originally expected.
- This Bill addresses the structural causes of the Scheme's unsustainable trajectory and refocus the NDIS on people with permanent and significant disability. This is complemented by a suite of changes to further reduce fraud and non-compliance.
- Prior to this Bill, the NDIS Amendment (Integrity and Safeguarding) Act 2026 introduced higher penalties and stronger interventions for the NDIS Commission to deter, respond to and address instances of non-compliance and safeguard participants from harm.
- Changes in this Bill will strengthen the ability of the NDIA and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission to detect and remove violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, and fraud against people with disability. This includes a number of changes to provider registration and fraud and non-compliance capabilities that will reduce the risk of fraud and harm to participants.
- In this budget, the Government is also reinvesting into the Fraud Fusion Taskforce and the NDIA's Payment Integrity Review workforce to continue the critical work on fraud within the NDIS.
- This builds on the \$550 million the Government has invested since 2022 to reduce fraud and non-compliance in the Scheme, which includes the establishment of the Fraud Fusion Taskforce, the Crack Down on Fraud ICT uplift programs, and the NDIA's Payment Integrity Review Workforce.
- Following this Bill, there are further legislative amendments planned to address fraud in the scheme.

7-8. Aren't you increasing the regulatory burden for quality providers?

- This Bill is not designed to increase the regulatory burden on providers. It is designed to make sure that participants receive high quality, safe and effective supports by trusted providers.
- This Bill will clarify the definition of NDIS provider. This is an important step towards a more risk-proportionate regulatory model for NDIS providers.

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- This step will enable the mandatory registration of NDIS providers who deliver high risk supports and services to provide the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission with appropriate oversight to minimise harm and/or abuse while minimising disruptions to other areas of the market.
- This is essential to ensure safe and high quality supports for participants at the greatest risk.
- Alongside this Bill, a number of changes are being made to payments and payment systems. The vast majority of providers will need to enrol with the NDIA by providing a validated bank account. They will then be paid directly into that account. This will make claims and payments much more efficient for providers, while also tackling integrity issues.

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Purpose and scope of the NDIS reforms

8-10. What is the purpose of this Bill?

- The purpose of this Bill is to put the NDIS on a more sustainable path and tackle fraud and non-compliance so it is always here for people with significant and permanent disability.
- The Government has made changes in recent years to slow the costs to deliver the NDIS, but s 47C continue to increase at a rate far higher rate than other comparable programs.
- This has stemmed from the Scheme deviating from its original intent – to support people with significant and permanent disability – alongside continued inflation in participant plans and support costs.
- This Bill helps deliver on National Cabinet's January 2026 commitment to reduce increases in NDIS costs to more sustainable levels of to 5 to 6 per cent or lower.

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- Continued, uncontrolled cost increases are unsustainable and, if left unchecked, would put the future of the NDIS – and its ability to support people with disability – at risk.
- This Bill takes practical, measured steps to put the NDIS on a more sustainable path and refocus it on people with significant and permanent disability, consistent with its original intent.

9-11. Why do we need the reforms?

- The NDIS is one of Australia's most important social programs.
- It is currently the third largest government payment and is the second fastest growing. If left unchecked, the NDIS could cost over \$100 billion per annum within the decade.
- Costs are continuing to rise rapidly, driven by plan inflation and weaknesses in how the system currently operates.
- The scale and distorted market structure of the NDIS are too often not providing high quality care to participants themselves.
- This puts the long term sustainability of the NDIS – and its ability to support future generations – at risk.
- These changes are needed urgently to slow growth, restore public confidence in the Scheme and secure it for the future.

10-12. Why are you acting now?

- The Government has made progress in recent years to make the NDIS more sustainable. As a result of previous changes, cost growth moderated from around 23 per cent in 2021-22 to around 11 per cent in 2024-25.
- However, the NDIS continues to grow at a rate far higher than other comparable programs. This was acknowledged at National Cabinet in January 2026, where all governments agreed to limit annual increases in NDIS costs to more sustainable levels – to 5 to 6 per cent or lower.
- In addition, as part of the 2026-27 Budget process, the NDIS Scheme Actuary advised that NDIS costs were expected to be \$13 billion higher over the forward estimates period relative to the 2025-26 MYEFO.
- These pressures have made National Cabinet's agreement of 5 to 6 per cent annual growth unachievable and, ultimately, are a risk to the long-term sustainability of the NDIS.
- These measures are needed now to put the NDIS on a more sustainable trajectory, so it is here for future generations of people with disability.

11-13. Are you cutting entitlements for people with disability to fix a broken budget?

- The measures included in this Bill are about good and responsible management of the Scheme. These will put the Scheme on a more sustainable trajectory, so it is always here for future generations of people with disability. There will be future reforms, which will rebuild how the NDIS operates in the future. This will be done with genuine and meaningful consultation with the states and the disability community.
- The scale and chaotic market structure of the NDIS has distorted other parts of the care economy. There have been inadequate levers to control fraudulent actors who are taking advantage of the scheme. Changes in this Bill build on work to date to address these issues,

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most recently through the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Integrity and Safeguarding) Bill 2025.

- This Bill also continues work to implement critical recommendations of the Independent Review into the NDIS and the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.
- Further legislation will be needed to implement longer term reforms following a consultation process.

12-14. What is the Government's overall fiscal target with the NDIS? When will you hit the 5 per cent annual growth target?

- In April 2023, National Cabinet agreed total costs of the Scheme will grow no more than 8 per cent annually by 1 July 2026. In January 2026, National Cabinet agreed further work needs to be done to bring down NDIS growth to a revised target of 5 to 6 per cent or lower.
- Upon introduction of this Bill, the NDIS will continue to grow each year. It is projected that the scheme will grow from \$51 billion to around \$55 billion (around an average of 2 per cent per annum) over the next four years, until 2030. The scheme will then grow at 5 per cent per annum over the medium term (from 2030 onwards).
- The NDIS will still be the largest social program in Australia, outside of the Age Pension. It will continue to be the centerpiece of the most comprehensive suite of supports for people with a disability anywhere in the OECD.
- **How much will this save?**
 - This Bill will put levers in place that will help control scheme growth from its current rate of around 11 per cent in 2024-25 to around 2 per cent on average over the next four years.
 - Under measures introduced with this Bill, the Scheme will grow by about \$4 billion between this year and the end of the forward estimates **s 47C** to around **s 47C**. This is an average growth rate of around 2 per cent per annum – before growing at 5 per cent per annum over the medium term.
 - Relative to the 2025-26 MYEFO, spending controls and reforms will reduce growth in the Scheme by \$23.9 billion over the forward estimates and a further \$160.9 billion over the medium term (in cash terms).
 - This Bill will also directly address causes of the potential \$13.9 billion cost increase projected by the NDIA's Scheme Actuary.

13-15. Is this a real cut to growth? / How will these changes impact the size of the NDIS?

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- Growth in the scheme will be relatively flat over the forward estimates, averaging around 2 per cent, as reforms to budgets and eligibility are rolled out.
- The reforms will reduce the size of the scheme as a share of the economy, from 1.7 per cent currently to stabilise around 1.6 per cent of GDP.

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- In the absence of these reforms the Scheme was projected to keep growing as a share of the economy, reaching **s 47C** per cent in of GDP in in 2029-30 and **s 47C** cent by 2036-37.
- The NDIS has continued to expand beyond its original intent in recent years and now covers more people and a broader range of supports than initially intended.
- Action is needed now to refocus the NDIS on people with significant and permanent disability and put it on a more sustainable path for the future.
- Once reforms are completed the NDIS is projected to grow sustainably in line with the economy.

14.16. How much will it cost to implement the reforms?

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- \$436.0 million in 2026-27 to ensure the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) can continue to support NDIS participants.

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- \$280.1 million over **s 47C** per year (ongoing) to continue the Fraud Fusion Taskforce and invest in the NDIA to continue to detect and respond to fraud and non-compliant payments.
- **s 47C** in 2026-27 to prepare for the rollout and implementation of new framework planning from 1 April 2027.

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- \$49.4 million over four years from 2026-27 **s 47C** to commission plan management and support coordination services for NDIS participants to reduce fraud and improve service quality for participants.

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- \$48.4 million over three years from 2025–26 to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and the NDIA to support consultation on and implementation of NDIS reforms.
- \$21.37 million over four years from 2026–27 (and \$5.8 million ongoing) to support the NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission's (NDIS Commission) regulatory and compliance activities, with costs to be met from within the existing resourcing of the NDIS Commission.
- \$15.9 million over four years from 2026–27 (and \$6.0 million ongoing) for Disability Representative Organisations to support community engagement on the design and implementation of reforms, with costs to be met from within the existing resources of the NDIA and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.
- \$14.7 million over two years from 2026–27 to extend supplementary funding for the NDIS Appeals program.
- \$3.3 million in 2026–27 to establish a Technical Advisory Group to provide expertise on the design of functional capacity assessment tools and instruments.

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15-17. Are costs actually being reduced, or is the Commonwealth shifting the cost to state systems?

- This Bill is not designed or intended to shift costs to the states. It has been designed to put the NDIS on a more sustainable trajectory, so it is always here for future generations of people with disability.
- The NDIS was never intended to replace mainstream service systems to support all people with disability.
- This is why National Cabinet agreed in 2023, and again in 2026, to commit \$10 billion shared between the states and the Commonwealth to deliver Foundational Supports outside the NDIS.
- The 2026-27 Budget provides \$3 billion for the remaining Commonwealth share towards Foundational Supports. The Government will continue to work with states and territories on building up supports outside the Scheme for people with disability.
- The NDIS has inadvertently led to scaling back of community based programs. The Government has announced \$200 million for an Inclusive Communities Fund to rebuild and strengthen community-based supports for NDIS participants.
- The Commonwealth invests significantly in mainstream systems delivered by the states, in particular the hospital system.

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16-18. What are the key drivers of NDIS costs?

- The NDIS was originally intended to support around 410,000 people with disability. Today, there are 760,000 people on the Scheme, and that number was projected to rise to over 1 million by 2034.
 - Scheme take-up by adults across most disability categories has stabilized. Participant growth currently is largely driven by children and young people with autism or developmental delay.
- Average spending per participant has also grown significantly over time. Some of this has been increased utilisation of plans by participants but a major source has been inflation of plan budgets.
 - Unscheduled reassessments have been a major source of plan inflation with one in five plans having an unscheduled reassessment each year, averaging a 20 per cent increase to plans from those reassessments.
- Last financial year (2025-26):
 - the number of participants grew by 11.8 per cent.
 - average participant budgets grew by 3.8 per cent.

17-19. How is Government ensuring people who rely on the NDIS are still supported?

- Participants will continue to have access to the critical supports needed to live well and with dignity. This Bill will not change that.
- Changes in the Bill will not impact budgets for critical supports, for example:
 - Supports in home (e.g. to help with eating, drinking, dressing, toileting, laundry, cleaning, community nursing care, help with medication etc.)
 - Home and vehicle modifications and transport
 - Personal mobility equipment
 - Consumable products to help with incontinence and menstruation
 - Specialist Disability Accommodation
- This Bill will build on recommendations of the Independent Review into the NDIS; the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability; and the **s 47C** Productivity Commission's **s 47C** report. Crucially, all of these reports and reviews were informed by extensive consultation with the disability community and sector.
- Importantly, several of the measures in this Bill focus on strengthening the ability of the NDIA and NDIS Commission to detect and reduce violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, and fraud.
- This is designed to protect people with disability, not to make it harder to access critical supports and impact the health and safety of participants.

18-20. These are significant reforms – why didn't you consult? What happened to the principle of 'Nothing About Us Without Us'?

- This Bill has been designed to restore the NDIS to its original purpose – supporting people with significant and permanent disability. Changes to the Scheme will always be made with the interests and choices of people with disability at the centre.

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- Many of the changes in this Bill build on work informed by the NDIS Review, the Disability Royal Commission, and the 2011 Productivity Commission report. All of these reports and reviews were informed by extensive consultation with the disability community and sector.
- While some changes will be implemented in the short term, many will be implemented over a longer period to allow more time for consultation with people with disability and their families and carers, advocates, providers and experts. For example, consultation will commence in 2026 on:
 - o the new way of planning
 - o changes to eligibility assessment
 - o differentiated pricing
 - o commissioning models for supported independent living, and
 - o the design of the Inclusive Communities Fund and market reforms to participants supports for social and community and capacity building activities
- Further reforms will be needed to ensure the Scheme delivers the best quality support possible for participants. The Government will be engaging deeply with the disability community – and with the States – on this series of reforms we intend to pursue later in the year.
- Changes will be implemented gradually over a transition period. More information will be provided to participants, the disability community and general public ahead of changes coming into effect.

19-21. Do the measures impact existing participants? Will they be grandfathered?

- Some of the measures in this Bill will apply to existing participants (such as changes to their plans) as the Government refocuses on supports that are reasonable and necessary.
- The Government is working on fairer and more consistent access decisions to return the Scheme to its original intent of supporting people with permanent and significant disability. Existing participants will have their eligibility reassessed through the regular plan reassessment process.
- Existing participants will benefit from better integrity and safeguarding measures that tackle fraud in the Scheme and register **S 47C** NDIS providers **S 47C**
- Over time, applicants and current participants without substantially reduced functional capacity, with treatable impairments, or who are eligible for services from other systems will no longer be eligible for the Scheme. These people will access more appropriate alternative service systems for ongoing support.
- From 1 January 2028 the new eligibility process will apply to new participants. Existing participants will be progressively reassessed over 2 years.

20-22. What are the new timeframes for making the rules, consultation and rollout of new framework planning? Is there a roadmap of what is going to happen when?

- The Government has released a roadmap presenting the timeframes for changes introduced through this Bill. This explains when each of the changes in this Bill will come into effect.

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- The rollout of s 47C) has been delayed to 1 April 2027. Participants will move to NFP over a staged transition. Amendments introduced through this Bill will support the rollout of new framework planning from 1 April 2027 and ensure changes applied to old framework plans flow through to new framework plans.
- The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing will continue to work with states and territories and the disability community in developing new framework planning rules. A further public consultation process will be undertaken later this year (from August to September 2026).

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Returning the NDIS to its original intent

Access and eligibility – general

21-23. How many people will be diverted or removed from the NDIS? How many will be exited?

- No changes to access will occur until January 2028.
- Before changes occur, the Government will seek advice from the Technical Advisory Group, community consultation, and work with states and territories to ensure people who are no longer eligible for the Scheme are appropriately supported outside the NDIS.
- Average annual growth in participants over the 5 years from 2020-21 to date was 12 per cent. As at 30 December 2025, there are 760,000 participants on the NDIS, including 363,000 adults and 398,000 participants aged 18 and under.
- Between 1 July 2026 and 1 January 2028, we estimate the number of participants will continue to grow. These changes are expected to:
 - divert 70,000 people from entering the NDIS by 30 June 2030.
 - remove access for 210,000 people currently on the NDIS by 30 June 2030.

22-24. What will happen to current participants?

- The usual NDIS eligibility reassessment process involves reviewing whether participants still meet the criteria to remain in the Scheme.
- This Bill will not result in an immediate eligibility reassessment of all participants.
- There will be no changes to the assessment of access and eligibility prior to 1 January 2028, to allow time for rules to determine thresholds to be implemented.
- From 1 January 2028 existing participants will begin to be progressively reassessed over 2 years. The way this reassessment happens will be subject to the advice of the Technical Advisory Group.
- People with permanent and significant disability will continue to be able to access the NDIS.

Eligibility based on substantially reduced functional capacity

23-25. Reassessment against a new criteria is stressful for participants. What will be done to reduce burden on existing participants? What participants will be reassessed when?



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26. Participants will already be reassessed under new framework planning. You're going to

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24-27. How will the Government consistently assess functional capacity and decide on the threshold for access to the Scheme?

- The NDIS Review found the current approach to accessing the Scheme is inconsistent and inequitable and not always targeted to people with disability who require the most support.
- The current access settings have relied too heavily on medical diagnosis. This has resulted in inconsistent and unfair access decisions and applicants having to seek expensive medical diagnosis. This has contributed to participant numbers well beyond ~~its~~ the Scheme's original intent of supporting people with significant and permanent disability.
- The Bill will establish the legal framework for determining access based on substantially

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- From 1 January 2028 eligibility through the disability pathway will be based on a standardised, evidence-based assessment of a person's functional capacity, rather than relying on diagnosis. Access through the disability pathway will be based on a substantial reduction in a person's functional capacity that impacts their day-to-day living.
- This will ensure fairer and more consistent access decisions and help return the NDIS to its original intent.
- This change will be informed by expert advice from a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on access and engagement with the community and states and territories. This advice will

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include how to assess applicants' functional capacity and what threshold should be used to determine eligibility. The TAG will draw on existing tools and international evidence where appropriate.

- Further information will be made available on the framework for the assessment process after the Government has received and considered advice from the TAG. No changes to the assessment process will be implemented until 1 January 2028.
- From 1 January 2028 the new eligibility process will apply to new participants. Existing participants will be progressively reassessed over 2 years.

25-28. Who will be on the Technical Advisory Group?

- The TAG will be established in July mid-June 2026.
- Members will be selected based on their technical expertise and skills. It will be composed of professionals with relevant expertise in assessing functional impairment in people with disability, as well as a representatives with lived experience.
- This will be complemented by consultation and engagement with the disability sector and people with disability to provide perspectives from people with lived experience.

26-29. Why are the access lists being removed? Who will no longer have access because of this?

- Access lists were implemented to streamline access for the Scheme for applicants during the initial transition phase when the NDIS was established.
- Access lists focus on diagnosis over functional capacity. When a person is found eligible through an access list, there is no requirement to have further evidence of how an impairment impacts a person's functional capacity.
- This has led to inconsistent and inequitable access decision making. It has also meant that people with higher levels of functional capacity can access the Scheme than was originally intended.
- Changing the use of access lists is a decision for the NDIA s 47C. The Government is making a recommendation to the NDIA Board that these lists are removed s 47C. This will align with implementation of a robust framework for determining substantial reduction in functional capacity, including an evidence based assessment.
- This assessment will be better suited to assessing the functional needs of a participant when considering eligibility for the s 47C. This builds on ongoing work to implement the recommendations of the NDIS Review.
- This will support Government to align the Scheme with its original intent of supporting people with significant and permanent impairment.
- Removing the access lists also means applicants won't need to seek numerous costly medical reports. The process will be simpler and clearer for participants.

Boundary between the NDIS and other service systems

27-30. What will happen to people who have a permanent impairment that significantly impacts their functional capacity who may be able to receive support from other service systems?

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- The NDIS was never intended to replace other service systems, such as state and territory compensation schemes and mainstream service systems. However, over time the boundaries between the NDIS and other service systems has become less clear. The NDIS Review recommended that arrangements governing interactions between the NDIS and compensation schemes be updated
- The Bill will clarify circumstances where access to other service systems means an individual is not eligible for the NDIS.
- Applicants will need to disclose if they are eligible for or accessing supports from a workers' compensation or motor vehicle accident scheme for relevant impairments. Clearer guidance on what evidence participants will be required to provide will be made available.
- This change will commence from 1 January 2028 for new applicants.
- This will not impact existing participants. All existing participants will have access to compensation schemes dealt with through existing compensation provisions.

s 47C

Definition of permanence

28.31. How will the Government decide what is permanent? Will people with significant support needs be removed from the Scheme if their condition does not fit the new definition of permanence?

- The NDIS was designed for people with permanent and significant disability. If a person can access treatment that will treat or alleviate the impact of an impairment, the NDIS is not the appropriate service system.
- The Bill clarifies the definition of permanence. Access will only be granted when
 - all appropriate treatment that can remedy or alleviate an impairment has been undertaken
 - no other treatment is likely to materially improve the impact of the impairment, and
 - the impairment is likely to be lifelong.
- This will mean people with impairments that can be remedied or alleviated through treatment may no longer be eligible for the NDIS. The NDIS was never intended to replace health, rehabilitation and treatment services which play a critical role in preventing lifelong disability.
- This change will begin from 1 January 2028 for new applicants. Existing participants will be progressively reassessed over 2 years. This may result in some people being removed from the NDIS if they do not meet the new test.

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29-32. Why is permanence a Category D rule, not Category A? Why are states being excluded from decisions on permanence when it will impact their service systems?

- The permanence rule is operational in nature. It is not standard practice to make operational instruments Category A.
- This has instead been made a Category D rule to ensure states are formally consulted.
- The Commonwealth will consult with states on all eligibility changes.

Thriving Kids

30-33. How do these new changes relate to Thriving Kids?

- These changes are in addition to the introduction of Thriving Kids.
- Similar to Thriving Kids, changes introduced through this Bill aim to restore the Scheme to its original intent – supporting people with significant and permanent disability.
- Thriving Kids will commence in a phased roll out from October 2026 providing support for children aged 8 and under with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs.
- The Government is working closely with state and territory governments to develop a threshold for NDIS access for children aged 8 and under with autism and /or developmental delay and low to moderate support needs.
- Access changes related to Thriving Kids will commence on 1 January 2028 to coincide with the full rollout of Thriving Kids.
- Children aged 8 and under already accessing the Scheme with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs will continue to be subject to reassessments under the eligibility criteria in place prior to 1 January 2028.

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34-35. Have Queensland signed up to Thriving Kids yet?

- All governments have now signed the National Agreement on Foundational Supports, which includes a commitment to jointly invest in Thriving Kids.
- Bilateral agreements are in place with 7 jurisdictions, setting out at a high level how services will be delivered in line with a national model of support.
- The Commonwealth is working with Queensland to finalise their agreement.

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- Detailed information on services and how to access them will be made available in the lead up to commencement from 1 October 2026.

Foundational Supports and psychosocial disability

32-36. Will changes to access for the NDIS drive increased demand on other services?

- These changes are about restoring the Scheme to its original intent of supporting people with significant and permanent disability. This was reinforced by the recommendations of the NDIS Review.
- The NDIS was never intended to replace community and mainstream service systems as a provider of all supports for people with disability. It was always intended to function as part of a broader ecosystem of supports. The NDIS Review also called for strengthened mainstream services alongside the NDIS.
- This is why National Cabinet agreed in 2023, and again in 2026, to commit \$10 billion shared between the states and the Commonwealth to deliver Foundational Supports outside the NDIS.
- The Commonwealth will continue to do its part in providing a significant contribution towards mainstream services (e.g. disability loading in schools, the inclusion support program in ECEC and primary care).
- States will be consulted well ahead of any changes to eligibility. Any future cohorts for Foundational Supports will be agreed by the Commonwealth with states.

33-37. Will there be additional Foundational Supports for people impacted by NDIS access changes?

- Changes to access will mean some people with disability may seek support from outside the NDIS, consistent with the original intent of the Scheme. Support may come from community and mainstream services. Some cohorts may also be supported by Foundational Supports.
- This year, all governments signed the National Agreement on Foundational Supports, which includes agreement of additional Foundational Supports. All governments have committed to invest up to \$10 billion (which includes \$4 billion for Thriving Kids) for the first 5 years of the national agreement.
- Future cohorts to receive Foundational Supports will be decided in consultation with states and territories, in line with the National Agreement.

34-38. Are you removing people with psychosocial disabilities from the NDIS?

- People with psychosocial disability will continue to be eligible for the NDIS.
- From 1 January 2028, eligibility for the NDIS will be based on a standardised, evidence-based assessment of an individual's functional capacity. It will not be based on diagnosis or disability type and there will be no different or higher threshold for people with psychosocial disability, compared with other disabilities.
- Once standardised, evidence-based assessments of functional capacity are implemented, some current NDIS participants with psychosocial disability may no longer meet NDIS eligibility criteria.

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- People with psychosocial disability can continue to access mainstream and community support systems outside of the NDIS.
- Health and Mental Health Ministers have agreed to prioritise addressing unmet psychosocial needs outside of the NDIS in the consideration of the next National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement. Ministers have also confirmed that funding for psychosocial supports outside the NDIS will be maintained.
- The Australian Government will work with state and territory governments to consider future cohorts for Foundational Supports. The needs of people with psychosocial disability both within and outside the NDIS will be part of those considerations.

Unscheduled plan reassessments

35-39. What is changing about unscheduled reassessment? What are the circumstances in which they can proceed? Will these circumstances be set out in the NDIS Act?

- Only participants, their plan nominee or guardian will be able to request an unscheduled plan reassessment.
- Unscheduled reassessments will only be possible when there have been significant and ongoing changes to a participant's support needs arising from changes in their functional capacity **s 47C**
- The change to functional capacity must be significant and ongoing, and have led to a substantial reduction in a participant's ability to perform daily activities. A request can also be made where there has been an unanticipated, significant and ongoing change in a participant's living, education, work or informal support arrangements. This criteria will be outlined in the Act.
- The NDIA will have 90 days to decide whether to vary, reassess or not reassess the plan.
- People with significant short-term changes in support needs will still be able to request plan variations.

36-40. What will happen to participants who have used up all of the funding in their NDIS plan if they cannot request an unscheduled reassessment?

- On average, plans that have an unscheduled reassessment experience a budget increase of 20 per cent. The current criteria is broad and open to interpretation.
- This Bill introduces changes that limit the circumstances in which a participant can request an unscheduled reassessment. Unscheduled reassessments will only proceed in exceptional circumstances.
- The Government has previously introduced safeguards, such as funding periods to ensure funding and supports remain available across the duration of a participant's plan. Other supports help participants with managing funding in their plan include plan managers, plan nominees and support coordination.
- People with significant short-term changes in support needs, who have experienced fraud, or who are in an emergency situation will still be able to request plan variations.

37-41. Is the decision to not approve or proceed with an unscheduled reassessment a reviewable decision?

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- Yes it will continue to be a reviewable decision as is the case now. The NDIA cannot decide to conduct a reassessment unless one of the conditions is satisfied.
- A decision to proceed with an unscheduled reassessment including a review of that decision, must consider whether there has been significant and ongoing changes to a participant's support needs arising from changes in their functional capacity; or unexpected changes in a participant's living, education or information support arrangements.

38-42. What will happen for participants who have already submitted an unscheduled reassessment?

- The measure for unscheduled reassessments in this Bill commences 7 days after Royal Assent.
- This will be effective for:
 - o all participants who make a request for an unscheduled reassessment, AND
 - o participants who had made a request for an unscheduled reassessment before commencement, but where a decision had not yet been arrived at. In these circumstances, the **s 47C** new tighter criteria for unscheduled reassessment will also apply.

39-43. How long will the NDIA take to make decisions on requests for unscheduled reassessments?

- The NDIA will have 90 days to decide on whether to vary, reassess or not reassess the plan.
- There will no longer be a 21-day timeframe to make a decision.
- This also means that the process of requests being automatically declined if not responded to within 21-days will **s 47C** no longer be in place.
- **s 47C** variations will continue to be responded to in 21 days.

Reasonable and necessary support**40-44. How is the Government determining what supports are reasonable and necessary?**

- A lack of clarity about what supports are considered reasonable and necessary has led to confusion, inconsistency and a broadening in supports funded by the NDIS over time. This has led to:
 - o inconsistency in supports provided to participants with similar needs and circumstances
 - o broadening in supports funded by the NDIS over time
 - o a gap between what supports participants want and what the NDIS can sustainably deliver
 - o a level of supports funded under the NDIS becoming out-of-step with other parts of the care and support economy.
- The NDIS Review recommended the concept of reasonable and necessary be codified in legislation/rules.

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- The Bill will clarify the factors that must be considered by NDIA delegates when determining what supports are reasonable and necessary to fund.
- In particular, NDIA delegates must have regard to Scheme sustainability and equity in the provision of supports across NDIS participants. They must consider participants with similar needs and circumstances.
- This will not impact the definition of NDIS supports or the *National Disability Insurance Scheme (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) (NDIS Supports) Transitional Rules 2024*.

Link between an impairment and need for support

41-45. How will the NDIA apply the link between an impairment and need for support?

- This Bill will clarify that supports will only be funded where the need for a support arises directly from impairment/s for which a participant met the NDIS access criteria.
- Participants **s 47C** will receive a notice of impairment ahead of transitioning to new framework planning which will include information about the category of impairment for which they meet access.
 - The categories of impairment are: intellectual, cognitive, neurological, sensory, physical or an impairment attributable to a psychosocial disability.
- The notice of impairment will be used to guide an assessment of supports related to a participant's category of impairments for which they meet access.
- Participants will be able to access mainstream and community support systems for other supports that they may require.
- This change will commence 7 days after Royal Assent of the Bill. It will impact all decisions on participant supports made after it commences.

Plan suspensions

42-46. What is changing about plan suspensions?

- The Bill will allow an individual's plan to be suspended if reasonable attempts to contact them **s 47C** have been made and a response (or adequate response) has not been provided.
- A participant's status as a participant can also be revoked if their plan has been suspended for at least 90 days based on inability to contact them.
- **s 47C**

Plan renewals

43-47. Why are participant plans no longer being rolled over? Is the Government adding another unnecessary assessment layer for participants to receive a plan each year?

- Participant plans do not currently have an 'end' date. They are continued for administrative convenience until a plan is reassessed and a new plan is created. When a participant's plan is not reassessed prior to the plan reassessment date, an automatic extension or rollover occurs.

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- When this occurs unspent funds from the previous plan are carried forward into a new plan period. These plans then include the original funded amount, unspent funds from the last plan and indexation. This contributes to unsustainable Scheme growth and is not based on a participant's assessed reasonable and necessary supports.
- In effect, participant's end up with additional money from previous unspent funds which exceed their reasonable and necessary support needs.
- The Bill will introduce a legislated end date for participant plans. When a participant reaches their reassessment date, this will become their plan's 'end date'. Immediately after the end date, a renewed plan will be created and unspent funds from the previous plan will not be carried over to the renewed plan. In the renewed plan, participants are not disadvantaged as they will still receive what was determined to be reasonable and necessary on an ongoing basis from their original planning meeting, with funding **s 47C**

44-48. If participants have been saving some of their funds for a specific, time-limited purpose, will they lose out on being able to use those unutilised funds?

- Participants will still be able to use their funds in a flexible way that best meets their needs. This must be done within the parameters of the NDIS Pricing Arrangements and **s 47C**
- This includes using funds for specific-time limited supports that are reasonable and necessary, when required **s 47C**
If a participant **s 47C** they will need to **s 47C** it within their current plan period. They will have 90 days to make claims. **s 47C**
- The change to introduce plan renewals with this Bill mean that plans will have a legislated end-date. Immediately after the end date, a renewed plan will be created and unspent funds from the previous plan will not be carried over to the renewed plan.

Rollout of new framework planning

45-49. How will changes introduced with this Bill impact new framework planning?

- Amendments introduced through this Bill will support the rollout of new framework planning from 1 April 2027 and ensure changes applied to old framework plans flow through to new framework plans.
- The rollout of New Framework Planning (NFP) has been delayed to 1 April 2027. This delay will allow more time to share the detailed information about the proposed rules and the participant journey in the rollout of the new way of planning.
- The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing will continue to work with states and territories and the disability community in developing new framework planning rules. A further public consultation process will be undertaken later this year (August to September 2026).

46-50. What changes are being made to new framework planning?

- Some changes are being made to support the effective operation of new framework planning and respond to issues emerging from initial consultation, validation and testing activities.

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51. What review rights will participants have s 47C

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- Participants can request an internal review of a decision made under new framework planning and, if still not satisfied, seek an external review through the Administrative Review Tribunal.
- Delegates of the CEO of the NDIA will approve a total funding budget based on the support needs assessment and a budget method set out in new rules.
- A review will look at the decision to accept the support needs assessment as the basis for calculating the reasonable and necessary budget, instead of reviewing individual supports in a plan.
- Participants can still request a review of decisions about their plan, including the statement of participant supports, plan variations, and plan reassessments.
- The role of the Administrative Review Tribunal will not change. The Tribunal will continue to act as the delegate and apply the same rules and powers available to the delegate under the NDIS Act.

47.52. How will the needs assessment apply the link between an impairment and need for support?

- This Bill will clarify that an assessed need will only be funded if it has a direct causal connection with an impairment for which a participant meets access to the Scheme.

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- The identification of a participant's need for NDIS supports will continue to be done on a whole of person basis.
- The impact of a participant's individual characteristics (including impairments other than relevant impairments) and environmental circumstances will be taken into account in identifying that need.

48-53. What information can be considered in a support needs assessment?

- During consultations on new framework planning, concerns were raised about an assessor having regard to irrelevant or incorrect information held in the records of the Agency. There were also questions about whether a participant could provide their own assessment reports or other similar information to be considered in an assessment or to be used instead of using the assessment tool specified in NDIS rules.
- The Bill will create new rule-making powers about what an assessor can and cannot consider during an assessment to ensure the process is fair and equitable. s 47C

49-54. Who can undertake a support needs assessment?

- The Bill makes it clear that an assessment must be undertaken by a member of staff or s 47C of the Agency; or a person prescribed by NDIS rules.

50-55. What will transition to new framework planning look like? Does the Government know which participants will transition first?

- Participants will move to NFP over a staged transition. The delay of NFP to 1 April 2027 rollout will allow more time to share detailed information about how the rollout and transition will occur.
- The Bill will clarify that if a participant is not able to participate in a support needs assessment, for example because they have been hospitalised, they can continue to access funding under their current plan.

51-56. Is there any link between the support needs assessment for new framework planning and the evidence based assessment of functional capacity being used for access?

- We will seek expert advice from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on whether information gathered as part of the functional capacity assessment, could be used to assist the support needs assessment.

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Automation

52-57. What does automation mean for participants and how will it impact the supports I

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- All decisions about the supports a participant receives must be made in line with the NDIS Act and rules. s 47C
- An important safeguard embedded in the Bill requires the CEO to make a standard operating procedure instrument (which is a type of legal document registered on the Federal Register of Legislation) if the s 47C
- Delegates of the CEO of the NDIA will always be required to make administrative decisions under the NDIS Act and rules about supports funding included in a participant's plan.

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54-58. Is the NDIA undertaking "robo-planning"?

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- This Bill includes a power for the CEO of the NDIA to automate certain steps in the process of making an administrative decision in accordance with the NDIS Act and rules.

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Released under the Freedom of Information Act 19 2 by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

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Delivering genuine social and community participation

Support determinations & participant budgets for community participation supports

58-61. What is changing about community participation and capacity building supports? How will these changes be implemented?

- The Bill will enable the Commonwealth Minister to make determinations to reduce funding for groups of supports. This will allow s 47C Minister to make a determination soon after Budget to reset participant support budgets in old framework plans for two support categories: social, civic and community participation (SCCP) supports and capacity building daily activities (CBDA) supports.
- From 1 October 2026 all participants will have their relevant supports reduced as their plans come up for renewal or reassessment. s 47C

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- Under this Ministerial determination, there will be no changes to budgets for critical supports. For example: supports **s 47C** home (e.g. to assist eating, drinking, dressing, toileting, laundry, cleaning, community nursing care, assistance with medication, etc.); home and vehicles **s 47C** personal mobility equipment; **s 47C** consumable products to manage incontinence and menstruation; or Specialist Disability Accommodation, etc.

59-62. What supports will be impacted? What is included in SCCP and CBDA?

- Social, civic and community participation supports provide NDIS participants with funding to assist in engaging in social, economic, and community activities.
- These supports help a participant to spend more time in their local community and get involved in group or social activities. This might include visiting friends and family, participating in sports or hobbies, going to the cinema, shopping or to a museum, or learning new skills (like using public transport, ordering food at a café, doing groceries).
- Social and community participation supports do not provide support for essential activities of daily living that are critical to maintaining a person's health and wellbeing, such as toileting, showering, meal preparation, and household tasks like cleaning.
- Capacity building daily activities budgets are **s 47C** used for allied health therapies and reports. This might include face-to-face physiotherapy or speech therapy sessions, support from an occupational therapist to build on skills in the home (like establishing routines, or exploring adaptive ways to complete tasks), assessing a participant's assistive technology or home modifications needs, or writing reports with recommendations that will support the participant.

60-63. How much are these supports being cut by? What is the justification for these specific amounts?

- To secure the NDIS for the future, difficult decisions needed to be made to reign in growth in some support categories that, while important to many participants, are not as essential to participant health and safety.
- The current level of funding for these supports is out-of-step with community expectations and comparable programs across the care and support economy.
- Total spending on SCCP alone is around \$12 billion, quadruple the level in 2019-20 and close to what we spend on the PBS (in net terms). In the absence of any action this would have grown to around \$20 billion by the end of the decade. These reforms arrest this spending growth.
- The budgets participants receive for social and community participation will be reduced by up to 50 per cent.
 - Importantly, a 50 per cent reduction in SCCP budgets will not result in a corresponding 50 per cent reduction in a participants' SCCP spending. This is because participants generally do not use their full SCCP Budget (**s 47C** utilisation is 85%) and they can flexibly draw on other areas in their Core support budgets (daily activities, consumable and transport supports).
 - It's expected this reduction will **s 47C** SCCP spending levels reset to 2023 levels and bring them more into line with other systems.

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- The level these supports are funded in the NDIS is significantly higher than in other systems. For example, SIL participants receive on average \$84,030 for these supports and non-SIL participants receive \$29,885 s 47C
- In comparison, in aged care Support at Home funding is limited to fixed funding packages between \$10,731 and \$78,106. People must use this (plus co-payments) to cover all of their supports, including in-home supports, allied health and community access supports.
- Capacity building daily activity funding will be reduced by 10 per cent.
 - For many participants, the reductions may not impact CBDA spending, but result in an increase in their utilisation rate, which on average is about 60%.
 - This reduction will reset spending s 47C more into line with other systems. This means on average participants would be funded for 68 therapy sessions per year, down from 72 sessions.
 - The level these supports are funded in the NDIS is significantly higher than in other systems – such as veterans' care or chronic disease management under Medicare.
 - Capacity building supports were always envisaged to be part of the NDIS, but to reduce the need for support over time.
 - This has not always been the case. Budgets are frequently increasing for these supports, rather than reducing as capacity is gained.
 - In most allied health disciplines there is little evidence to support high volumes of therapy on a long-term basis.

64-64. What safeguards are being put in place to ensure these cuts do not cause harm, particularly for SIL participants?

- Participants will still have SCCP Budgets and be able to continue to access services either at a lower intensity, or through shared/group supports.
- This includes through community participation activities delivered by community organisations, enabled by the \$200 million Inclusive Communities Fund. Consultation and design of this fund will consider how community participation activities can best deliver the supports participants need most.
- This change will not impact budgets for critical supports, for example:
 - Supports in home (e.g. to help with eating, drinking, dressing, toileting, laundry, cleaning, community nursing care, help with medication, etc.)
 - Home and vehicle modifications
 - Personal mobility equipment and transport
 - Consumable products to help with incontinence and menstruation
 - Specialist Disability Accommodation.
- Participants will still be able to request a plan reassessment, including to their SCCP and CBDA budgets where there has been a permanent change in their circumstances.

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62-65. Why is the Government targeting funding for community and social participation and capacity building supports?

- To secure the NDIS for the future, difficult decisions needed to be made to ~~rein~~rein in growth in some support categories that, while important to many participants, are not as essential to participant health and safety.
- The current way social and community participation supports are funded in the NDIS drive growing costs for the Scheme, without always driving better inclusion for participants.
- Over time, a reliance on individualised 1:1 supports has meant programs that once provided genuine opportunities for connection and community engagement have been withdrawn.
- While many support workers provide valuable supports, too many participants tell us their support workers are spending more time on their phones than engaging with them and providing support.
- We've received reports of participants falling out of their wheelchair while a support worker is scrolling on their phone.
- This has put significant pressure on Scheme costs, with spending out-of-step with other supports in the care and support economy. This year, the expected cost of community participation supports is over \$12 billion, which is close to net spending on the entire Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- This Bill enables a reset of participant support budgets for social, civic and community participation supports and capacity building daily activities as plans are ~~s 47C~~ reassessed.
- This will bring the NDIS more in line with other supports in the care and support economy. Participants will be encouraged to engage in group supports that facilitate genuine community inclusion and connection.

63-66. How are participants expected to engage in their community or build their capacity if they are having funding cut from these supports?

- Participants can continue to work with providers on how to use their budget and get the most out of their supports. This must always be within the limits of the NDIS Pricing Arrangements.
- Not all capacity building ~~s 47C~~ categories are being impacted by this change. Only the capacity building **daily activities** budget is being reset to better align with the rest of the care and support economy. All other ~~s 47C~~-capacity building budgets will remain as they currently are.
- The Government is also supporting community-based organisations to provide much needed group-based activities and supports. The Government has announced \$200 million for an Inclusive Communities Fund to rebuild capability among community organisations to host genuine participation activities.

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- The Fund will support community organisations to build up group based social and community participation activities and individual capacity building supports. It will provide opportunities **s 47C** to engage in genuine community participation.
- How this fund can best support organisations to deliver high quality participation activities will be settled in consultation with the disability community. Further information about engagement opportunities will be provided in the coming months.

64-67. Will participants be provided with notice on how much their budgets are being reduced by before they happen?

- This change will be implemented via Ministerial determination which will be enabled by the Bill. **s 47C**
- From 1 October 2026 -all participants will have their relevant supports reduced as their plans come up for renewal or reassessment over the next 12 months.

65-68. Doesn't this budget cut directly impact a participant's choice and control?

- Choice and control means people with disability have the right to decide how they receive supports, who provides them and how their supports are delivered.
- Participants will still have choice and control over how they use their budget, but the level these supports are funded by the NDIS will be more in step with other parts of the care and support economy.
- Participants can continue to work with providers on how to use their budget and get the most out of their supports. This must always be within the limits of the NDIS Pricing Arrangements.

66-69. How will this change impact participants in Supported Independent Living who use their social, civic and community participation funding for additional supports in the home? Will these participants be at risk or have insufficient funding?

- Participants who are living in Supported Independent Living (SIL) typically receive supports on a rostered, 24-hour, 7-day per **s 47C**. The majority of these 24/7 supports are funded in a specific home and living budget.
- Changes to SCCP funding for SIL participants will mean that participants receive less individual support in the community. Participants will still be able to use their **s 47C**
- Participants will still be able to work with their providers and people who support them to use their funding flexibly, within the parameters of the NDIS Pricing Arrangements.

Inclusive Communities Fund

67-70. What will the Inclusive Communities Fund do?

- The Inclusive Communities Fund is intended to rebuild the capability of community organisations to assist people with disability to participate fully in community life.

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- The current, individualised approach to delivering supports through the NDIS has allowed previous programs and opportunities for people with disability to connect with the community to wither away.
- The Government will provide \$200 million to establish the Fund, which will provide support to rebuild these lost opportunities for community participation [for NDIS participants](#).
- The final design and operation of the Fund will be settled in consultation with the disability community. Consultation will start from July 2026.

Improving the quality of providers

Pricing decision-maker

68-71. Why is the Minister assuming control of NDIS pricing decisions?

- The NDIS Review highlighted a lack of evidence; unclear price setting processes; and delays in the completion of Annual Pricing Reviews for the NDIS.
- Currently, pricing decisions are made by the NDIA Board [and s 47C](#)
- The Bill will make the Minister for Disability and the NDIS the decision maker on NDIS pricing [s 47C](#)
- The NDIA will retain responsibility for conducting independent analysis and stakeholder engagement through its Annual Pricing Review to inform pricing advice to the Minister.
- This change will improve transparency, predictability and alignment in pricing across sectors, while also providing government oversight over NDIS pricing changes.
- This change aligns with how prices are decided for aged care.

69-72. How will pricing decision-making changes impact participants and providers?

- NDIS pricing reforms are being delivered to strengthen pricing transparency, better reflect the cost of providing services, and promote alignment across the care and support economy.
- Transferring pricing decision-making authority to the Minister will help address issues with pricing by ensuring government oversight over NDIS pricing changes and align with other care sectors, such as aged care.

70-73. Does the Commonwealth plan to significantly reduce pricing limits for NDIS providers to reduce Scheme costs? Has the impact on the market been considered?

- Changes to pricing introduced through this Bill are not intended to reduce pricing limits.
- Pricing decisions will promote access to safe, affordable, and quality supports for participants and foster a diverse and sustainable NDIS market.
- [s 47C](#) NDIA will retain responsibility for conducting independent analysis and stakeholder engagement to inform pricing advice to the Minister.
- This function is currently conducted by the NDIA through the Annual Pricing Review which informs price limits for different supports.

74-75. Why has NDIA retained the pricing advice function and not transitioned to IHACPA?

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- Government has not made a decision to transition the pricing advice function to IHACPA at this time.
- Work is underway to address the NDIS Review's recommendation to improve evidence based pricing decisions, transparency, predictability and alignment.
- This includes changes made through this Bill will move pricing decision making to the Minister for Disability and the NDIS.
- Under these changes the NDIA will retain responsibility for conducting analysis and stakeholder engagement to inform pricing advice to the Minister.
- The NDIA is progressing reforms to strengthen the evidence base for pricing decisions through its Three-Year Pricing Workplan, informed by the 2025 Independent Pricing Committee report. The NDIA has already improved its benchmarking data across the care economy, and is committed to providing earlier notice of price changes.

Plan management commissioning

72-75. What is changing about plan management? Why is it being changed?

- Plan management has been identified as a key risk area for fraud. Significant issues have been detected in the plan management market, including fraudulent behaviour, sharp practices, conflicts of interest, payment integrity and governance issues.
- Legislative amendments will enable the NDIA to commission a panel of plan management providers to strengthen service quality, improve integrity standards, minimise conflicts of interest and reduce fraud.
 - Legislative amendments will clarify the definition and registration requirements for plan management providers.
- This will allow the Government to move from an open plan management market to a commissioned panel with a limited number of providers.
- The NDIA and NDIS Commission will establish strict quality, regulation and monitoring standards for commissioned providers on the plan management panel.
- This process will identify a group of trusted providers to support participants with plan management. It will give the NDIA and NDIS Commission better oversight of plan management providers to protect participants from fraud.
- This will improve the quality and consistency of plan management services and limit plan management services to providers who can provide safe, high-quality services for participants
- Participants will continue to be able to access plan management services.
- Plan managers will continue to play an essential supporting participants to manage their NDIS plan budgets, including monitoring spending against their budgets, checking and ensuring claims meet legislative and integrity checks, submitting invoices to the NDIS, and paying providers.
- There will be a 6-month transition period following the **s 47C** launch of the panel on 1 October **s 47C**. During the transition period, participants will be able to continue to access plan management services from their existing plan management provider.

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- If the current settings do not change, the NDIA will continue to face significant losses due to fraudulent practices and payment integrity failures driven by unscrupulous or poor-quality plan managers.
- The NDIA has estimated that 85 per cent of plan management providers show signs of at least one risk factor (such as, conflict of interest, collusion or fraud) s 47C
- In the December 2025 quarter, 963 plan management providers (67 per cent of all active plan management providers) serviced 100 or fewer participants. Of those, 505 plan management providers (35 per cent of all active plan management providers) serviced 10 or fewer participants.

73-76. What is the role of plan managers once the new enrolment and payment system is rolled out?

- As the NDIS Review observed, transitioning to fully electronic payments in the NDIS would reduce the need for plan management providers.
- The NDIA's new enrolment and payment system will take time to establish.
- Once established, the NDIA's new enrolment and payment system could incentivise more participants to self-manage their NDIS plans, which could reduce demand for services delivered by plan management providers. s 47C

74-77. Will there be consultation on the plan management commissioning approach?

- The Government will engage with the plan management sector as part of these reforms.
 - Plan management providers who are not chosen for the panel, and impacted participants, will be notified of this change before the panel is implemented and the 6-month transition period commences.
- Reforms to plan management have been informed by recent consultation and reviews with the disability community. This includes the Independent Review into the NDIS, the NDIS Commission's own motion inquiry into support coordination and plan management, and the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. Through these processes, the Government conducted intensive engagement with the disability sector.

75-78. How many plan management providers currently operate in the Scheme?

- Currently, there are approximately 3,000 registered plan management providers within the scheme.
- Approximately 1,400 of those providers are active and operating.
- In the December 2025 quarter, 963 plan management providers (67 per cent of all active plan management providers) serviced 100 or fewer participants. Of those, 505 plan management providers (35 per cent of all active plan management providers) serviced 10 or fewer participants. Only 472 plan management providers (33 per cent of all active plan management providers) serviced more than 100 participants.

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76-79. How many plan management providers will be on the panel?

- The exact number of plan management providers on the panel will depend on the outcomes of an open competitive sourcing process, which will be run by the NDIA.
- The NDIA will evaluate panel applications from plan management providers against its quality criteria.

77-80. What will happen to providers that are no longer eligible or able to provide plan management services? What will the impact be on the plan management market?

- Any providers who are not successful in joining the plan management panel will no longer be eligible to deliver plan management services.
- During the 6-month transition period, plan management providers who are not chosen for the panel will be permitted to continue delivering plan management services to participants they were already delivering services to, provided that participants have not already elected to switch to a plan management provider on the panel. Once the transition period has ended, providers not chosen for the panel will no longer be eligible to deliver plan management services.
- Providers who are not chosen for the panel, and impacted participants, will be notified of this change before it commences.

78-81. What will happen to workers at plan management providers who are no longer eligible to deliver plan management services?

- Many plan managers deliver other NDIS services as their primary business and they can continue delivering those services.
- Plan management providers who are not chosen for the panel will no longer be able to provide those services.

79-82. What will happen to participants whose existing plan management providers are not chosen to be part of the plan management panel? How will the transition period work?

- Participants will need to select a new plan management provider from the NDIA's plan management panel, if their existing provider is not selected for the panel.
- The NDIA will support relevant participants to identify and transition to a new plan management provider on the panel.
- Once the panel has been introduced, there will be a 6-month transition period during which participants will be eligible to use their old existing plan management provider. By the end of the transition period, all plan-managed participants will be required to use a plan management provider on the NDIA's panel.
- A staged approach will occur over the transition period. This will make sure that participants are less impacted by the transition and continue to receive the supports and services they need. Plan managed participants will be notified of changes to their plan management service prior to the transition period.

80-83. Will participants be able to choose their own plan management provider? And will participants continue to be able to choose if they are plan managed?

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- Participants will continue to have choice over plan management providers, however from a limited number of high-quality providers that are commissioned by the NDIA and meet strict requirements.
- Changes to plan management do not change a participant's ability to choose how their plan is managed. Participants will still have the opportunity to request whether they are plan-managed, agency-managed or self-managed.

81-84. What are the timeframes for implementing the plan management panel?

- The new plan management approach **S 47C** implemented from 1 October 2027, beginning with a 6-month transition period.

82-85. How will participants know how to access a commissioned plan manager?

- The NDIA will provide participants with information about changes to the plan management panel, including transitional arrangements, closer to the establishment of the panel.
- Participants already receiving services from a provider selected for the plan management panel will not need to transition to a new plan management provider.
- There will be a 6-month transition process for participants who need to change plan management providers.

83-86. What about participants with specific needs who require tailored services from their plan management provider? How will the Government ensure the plan management providers selected to be on the panel meet all participants' needs?

- Plan management services are mostly delivered online or by phone. Plan management providers typically offer standardised services, rather than personalised, face-to-face services.
- The plan management panel will establish strict quality, regulation and monitoring standards for panel members. This will strengthen service quality, improve integrity standards, minimise conflicts of interest and reduce fraud.
- Plan managers on the panel will be required to provide accessible and culturally appropriate services that meet the needs of all participants that use their services.
- A 6-month transition process will be established for participants who need to change plan management providers to ensure transition does not impact service continuity. The transition period will allow for all information regarding a participant's needs to be shared with the plan management panel.

84-87. Will participants' plan budgets be reduced as a result of the plan management reforms?

- There will be no immediate changes to plan managed NDIS participants' existing plan budgets as a result of the plan management reforms.
- Once the panel has been established, funding amounts for plan management services in NDIS participants' plan budgets will be updated to reflect any new fees for plan management services. This would occur when a participant's plan is next re-assessed **or renewed** following the panel establishment.

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Commissioning support coordination

85-88. What is changing about support coordination? How does this relate to the NDIS Review recommendation around navigators?

- The Government has announced it will move to a commissioned model for support coordination. This will change the way support coordination services under the NDIS are delivered.
- This is not included in the Bill. The design of this model will be subject to further market readiness testing.
- Changing the support coordination model will address issues raised by the community about the quality and integrity of the current support coordination market. This includes poor and inconsistent service quality, conflicts of interest and fraudulent practices.
- The new model will be informed by recommendations from the NDIS Review around improving navigation for people with disability including participants, as well as insight from recent consultations with participants, the disability community and the sector.
- Under a new model, the Government will directly commission providers to deliver a new support coordination and connection service for people with disability. This service is expected to roll out from mid-2028.
- With this change, participants will no longer need to pay for support coordination services with funding from their NDIS plans. Instead, they will be able to choose from a range of providers funded directly by Government to deliver the new service.
- This will provide the Government with better oversight and control of the quality of services participants receive.

86-89. Why is the Government implementing a cap on funding for the delivery of a new support coordination and connection service? Will this reduce the number of participants who can access support coordination?

- Costs for support coordination services have rapidly grown in recent years. This growth in cost has not resulted in corresponding increases in service quality or outcomes for participants.
- In some cases, there is a mismatch between a participant's level of need and the level of support they receive from support coordinators.
- The new commissioned support coordination and connection service, while capped, will drive better quality and efficiency in the support coordination market.
- Service design and implementation will be informed by engagement with the disability community and sector.

87-90. What will happen to providers who are not a part of the commissioned support coordination model?

- Providers who are not a part of the commissioned support coordination model will not be able to provide support coordination services. Providers will be able to tender for this service through a merit-based process.

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- A transition period will occur with the new arrangements being implemented from 1 July 2028. Participants with support coordination will be supported to transition to the commissioned support coordination and connection service upon implementation.

Provider registration

88-91. Who is an NDIS provider?

- The current *NDIS Act 2013* defines an NDIS provider as a person or entity (not a participant or the NDIA), that receives participant plan funds to provide a support. Those considered an NDIS provider by the NDIS Act are required to comply with responsibilities outlined in the NDIS Act and the NDIS Code of Conduct.
- This definition is currently very broad and encompasses persons and entities that may not be aware that they are providing supports under a participant's plan or subject to a Code of Conduct. For example mainstream retailers like Woolworths, Bunnings, Priceline, Coles etc.

89-92. What is changing? Who will need to be registered?

- New categories of providers delivering high-risk supports and services will be required to register. These include personal care, daily living supports and supports provided in closed settings.
- To enable that, the NDIS Commission will develop categories of NDIS providers.
- Additionally, the NDIA will introduce a new enrolment and digital payment system with a minimum basic level of identifiable information for the vast majority of providers.
- The combined efforts of enrolment with the NDIA and mandatory registration with the NDIS Commission will enable payment visibility to the Scheme and regulatory oversight of the providers delivering supports to participants who are most at risk of abuse and/or exploitation.
- At the same time, the Government will exclude categories like mainstream retailers, who may not be aware they are NDIS providers, from the obligations that apply to all NDIS providers – such as compliance with the code of conduct.
- This will be enabled by a change to the definition of NDIS provider in the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act (2013)*.
- The change will narrow the definition of NDIS provider to exclude mainstream retailers and other supports who meet the current definition, but are more appropriately regulated in other legislation.
- The proposed amendment will delegate specific aspects of the definition of NDIS provider to the NDIS rules. This will give more flexibility to adjust the definition of NDIS provider as the market continues to evolve, without amending the Act.
- The specific definition contained in the NDIS rules will be developed in consultation with the disability community and the sector. The Government will build on the extensive consultation already undertaken as part of the NDIS Review, the NDIS Provider and Worker Registration Taskforce and departmental consultations on Self Directed Supports and provider definition.
- This will complement the work already underway to require registration of NDIS providers delivering high-risk supports and services. Amending the definition of NDIS provider will ensure the NDIS Commission has appropriate oversight of NDIS supports, while preserving the right of NDIS participants to choose where to purchase low risk supports.

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- The Government anticipates the combination of these reforms will result in over 90% of all funds spent by NDIS participants going to registered NDIS providers by 2030.
- This is part of how the Government is continuing the work addressing recommendations of the NDIS Review and the NDIS Provider and Worker Registration Taskforce.
- NDIS participants will not be required to use an NDIS provider for their low risk or mainstream supports. These businesses will no longer be referred to as an 'NDIS provider'.

90-93. Why do providers need to be registered?

- All NDIS providers must always meet their obligations under the NDIS Act and Code of Conduct, regardless of their registration status. This will also include obligations and aligned changes to the NDIA's payment system.
- The changes to the NDIA's payment system will make payments simpler for both participants and providers improving visibility of claims and payments. Additionally, payment visibility will make it easier to target, disrupt and treat non-compliance and help to identify potentially fraudulent activity much earlier
- Registered NDIS providers are required to comply with additional regulations which ensure the services they offer NDIS participants meet a standard of quality.
- Registration of providers gives participants further assurance that their chosen services will provide supports in a safe and dignified way. When a provider is registered, the Government has better oversight to help keep participants safe from harm.
- The Government is expanding the types of support which will require an NDIS provider to be registered. This will provide greater visibility of how high-risk supports are delivered. Making registration mandatory for these supports will enable the NDIS Commission to proactively address high-risk practices, and remove providers who do the wrong thing. This will improve the quality of service from the providers who remain in the market.

91-94. Why won't every provider need to be registered?

- The vast majority of NDIS providers claiming payment from the Scheme will need to be enrolled with the NDIA. This will ensure basic visibility for the whole market while recognising that not every provider requires the same level of scrutiny. The NDIS Commission will target its efforts to those providers delivering high-risk supports and services.
- NDIS participants choose to access a wide range of businesses in the community for their supports. Some supports funded by NDIS participant plans are sourced from mainstream retailers.
- Under the current definition of NDIS provider in the NDIS Act, any business who provides a support funded by a participant's plan is covered by the NDIS Code of Conduct, whether they know this or not.
- The NDIS Provider and Worker Registration Taskforce identified this issue in their 2024 advice to Government on the design and implementation of mandatory registration. The Government agrees that the current definition of NDIS provider in the NDIS Act is too broad.
- The Government's primary focus is making sure that NDIS regulation targets the highest risk supports, while upholding the rights of NDIS participants to choose other providers for lower risk supports.

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- This Bill will refine the definition of NDIS provider. This will support clarity about who is an NDIS provider and who is not. This will enable the NDIS Commission to focus its attention on higher risk supports through amendments to the NDIS rules.
- The Government estimates that this change, along with changes to the NDIS rules already underway, roughly 92 cents out of every dollar spent by NDIS participants will go to a registered provider by 2030.

92-95. Will these changes mean that some participants have to change providers? Will the NDIA help them do this?

- With the changes introduced in this Bill, all NDIS participants who receive high-risk supports will need to choose a registered provider for those supports.
- This will mean that some participants might need to choose a new provider for these supports. Participants will be able to engage with their support coordinator, partner in the community, or with the NDIA to identify registered providers that can delivery high-risk supports in their area.

Payment systems

s 47C

93-97. What changes are being made to payment service systems? Will this make payments harder for participants?

- Alongside this Bill, a number of changes are being made to payments and payment systems.
 - New evidence thresholds will be introduced for all claims for all plan management types. Where claims exceed certain thresholds, supporting documentation will be required.
 - For self-managed participants, an improved NDIS App will allow “tap-and-go” claiming that will make it easy for participants to provide evidence for their claims.
 - The vast majority of providers will need to enrol with the NDIA by providing a validated bank account and through the government’s myID and Relationship Authorisation Manager. s 47C Most businesses will have s 47C already established. They will then have the ability to be paid directly into a bank account.
 - This will occur between 1 July and 1 December 2027. This will support clarifying the definition of NDIS provider (currently in s9 of the NDIS Act) through this proposed legislation. This will be an important step towards a more risk-proportionate regulatory model for NDIS providers.

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- This enrolment system relates to payment for services provided and is separate to becoming a NDIS registered provider through the NDIS Commission.
- These changes will make payments simpler for both participants and providers and improve visibility of claims and payments. These changes will start s 47C

Commissioning supported independent living

94-98. Why is the government only announcing consultation on SIL commissioning?

- Supported Independent Living (SIL) provides support to some of the most vulnerable NDIS participants who require the most support. Only 5 per cent of participants access SIL, but SIL supports represent 26 per cent of total Scheme costs.
- Despite being a significant share of the NDIS costs, some providers face viability challenges and may not be able to continue providing these critical supports without structural or pricing changes.
- The Government is seeking to understand concerns of providers and participants with the current model and how housing and living supports for participants requiring 24/7 supports can be improved. Exploring different commissioning models will look at how they can benefit both participants and providers to achieve funding certainty, better manage cost growth and improve outcomes.
- Targeted consultation will be held in the second half of 2026 and hear from participants using SIL, their families and carers, providers, industry representatives and experts. Consultation will seek to understand challenges faced by both participants and providers and will focus on the most effective commissioning model that balances participant and provider needs as part of a sustainable service model.

95-99. Won't moving to a commissioned market impact on participants choice and control?

- The scope of the market to be commissioned will be informed by consultation and subject to further decisions of Government.
- Moving to a commissioned market is expected to improve the effective choice and control of participants by offering them more certainty and better quality service offerings.
- Consultation will include a focus on how to provide more innovative and quality services that meet their needs, whilst ensuring long term viability of providers.
- In addition, there is currently a Quality SIL pilot underway, which is being conducted by the NDIA. This is to help understand concerns and the practical means to stabilise the SIL market.

96-100. Changes from a commissioning model will take multiple years to implement.

How is the government helping providers who are facing viability challenges immediately?

- Government is engaging with providers and peak bodies to address viability concerns, and the NDIA is working with selected providers through the Quality Support program to evaluate the characteristics and costs of delivering quality services. Insights from these pilots will strengthen pricing models.
- Continuity of support, with a strong focus on participant health, safety and wellbeing, remains the primary consideration.

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- Where service continuity is at risk, my department, the NDIA and NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission will jointly consider and coordinate any market responses.

97-101. Is the Government expecting providers to exit the Supported Independent Living market because of this change? How will participants be supported if their provider exits the market?

- No decisions have been made by the Government on SIL commissioning.
- The Government will work with providers in the SIL market and participants who receive SIL to make sure there is a continuity of support before commencing with a commissioned model.

Differentiated pricing

98-102. Are you changing pricing for different service types or providers now?

- NDIS pricing currently takes a 'one-size-fits-all' approach and applies uniform price caps regardless of provider registration status. This means price settings do not accurately reflect additional regulatory costs faced by registered providers.

s 47C

- However, the Government is commencing consultation in July 2026 on expanding differentiated pricing arrangements for unregistered providers delivering social and community participation, capacity building daily activities, and s 47C
- The Government will consider the outcomes of this consultation before making any further changes to the NDIS pricing model.

Tackling fraud and non-compliance

Fraud and non-compliance overall

99-103. Fraud is too high. Are you really doing enough to get rid of the shonks and rorters?

- Since 2022, the Government has invested more than \$1.35 billion to reduce fraud and non-compliance in the NDIS.
- This includes the establishment of the Fraud Fusion Taskforce, the Crack Down on Fraud ICT uplift programs, and the NDIA's Payment Integrity Review Workforce.
- This Bill builds on these investments and will further strengthen the role of the NDIA and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission to prevent, address, investigate, and respond to instances of fraud and non-compliance.
- The Government has announced plans for further reforms to address fraud and non-compliance and its intention to introduce additional legislation towards the end of 2026.

100-104. What is integrity leakage? How does it differ from fraud? How is it measured?

- Current issues captured in assessing integrity losses include:
 - simple "claims errors" such as inappropriate claims
 - claiming practices to circumvent benchmark prices

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- o rates misaligned to the time period claimed, for example, weekend rates for weekday support
- o non-compliant claims associated with problematic providers, for example, providers likely to be banned
- o non-compliance attached to high drawdowns for self-managed participants.
- There remain sources of financial integrity loss that are currently not able to be statistically tested or measured. For example, the following are some examples of risks not included in current loss estimates:
 - o losses associated with falsified identity to gain NDIS access
 - o losses associated with falsified or exaggerated evidence for access to the NDIS
 - o losses associated with complex collusion (e.g. collusion to claim and confirm services that were never genuinely delivered)
- Our current estimate of financial integrity loss in the NDIS shows that (as a percentage of NDIS payments):
 - o 7.7% comes from issues we can identify and measure using data analysis.
 - o a further 0.6% of estimated loss is derived from a combination of data points and operational insights.

90-day claims

101:105. How long will participants and providers have to submit claims?

- The Bill will amend the timeframe for making a claim for supports under a participant's plan to strengthen payment integrity, simplify obligations for participants and providers and support Scheme sustainability.
- All claims for NDIS supports will need to be made within 90 days of service delivery, reduced from 2 years.

102:106. Why are you making this change? Didn't you only amend this in 2024?

- The NDIS Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Act 2024 introduced a statutory claims period of 2 years which became operative on 3 October 2025.
- While this has reduced very old claims, there continue to be disproportionate integrity issues for claims older than 90 days.

Retention of records

103:107. Why will participants and providers be required to keep records of services?**What will be done with these records?**

- Record retention is important as it will make it easier to support the NDIA to verify and pay claims. Without valid records, the NDIA cannot verify that services have been provided, which may prevent claims being paid or a debt being raised.
- The NDIS currently has no universal, enforceable requirements for participants or providers to retain evidence relating to claims. There is no legislative requirement for them to keep records demonstrating supports were delivered or claims are valid.

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- With this Bill, providers and participants will be required to retain records relating to the payment and receipt of NDIS amounts. These types of records will be outlined in the NDIS Rules.
- The Bill will set out requirements for retaining certain records. Providers and participants will be required to retain records relating to the payment and receipt of NDIS amounts. The rules will specify the types of records that must be kept. A failure by a provider to retain the required records will result in a civil penalty. Where an individual receives a NDIS payment but has not kept records, a debt will be owed to the NDIA. NDIS rules will also be able to prescribe circumstances in which records do not need to be retained.
- The types of information required to be held will be similar to what is required under tax law and will be for a period of 7 years for providers, 5 years for plan nominees and 3 years for participants.
- Appropriate timeframes will be provided before this legislation is enacted to allow for providers and participants to develop systems and strategies for filing and storage.

104:108. What will happen if records go missing or are lost?

- If a record has been lost or accidentally destroyed, a person will be able to provide other evidence such as a statutory declaration or bank transaction details.

105:109. How are debts raised?

S 47C

NDIA information gathering powers

106:110. Why are the information gathering powers of the NDIA being strengthened?

- The NDIA is responsible for ensuring not only the administration, but also the integrity of, the NDIS. This includes the prevention, detection, investigation, and response to misuse or abuse of the NDIS in relation to . This includes addressing claims for payment, the payment of NDIS amounts, and the use of funding provided under the NDIS.
- The current powers within the NDIS Act do not allow the NDIA to adequately gather this information for use in criminal investigations and prosecutions to adequately uphold the integrity of the NDIS.
- The Bill will strengthen the NDIA's information gathering powers. NDIA will have stronger powers to ensure information can be lawfully obtained and used for the full range of its statutory functions, including criminal investigations and prosecutions.

107:111. Will participants and providers be required to provide additional information when it is requested by the NDIA?

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- This Bill will provide the NDIA with stronger information-gathering powers to ensure information can be lawfully obtained and used for the full range of its statutory functions, including criminal investigations and prosecutions. This will ensure the NDIA has the tools necessary to effectively respond to serious integrity threats within the Scheme.
- This power allows the NDIA to request information to be produced within 14 days, with the opportunity for a shorter timeframe when the NDIA CEO identifies reasonable circumstances.
- Participants and providers will not be required to provide information to the NDIA when such information may expose the person to incrimination or a penalty. However, not providing the requested information may result in an offence under s57 of the NDIS Act.
- The protection against self-incrimination is a fundamental common law right in the Australian legal system. This amendment ensures that if that were the case, the person subject to a notice to produce information would be protected from penalty where producing information may expose them to self-incrimination.
- This measure strikes a balance between enabling the NDIA to exercise their statutory functions to protect the integrity of the Scheme and ensuring procedural fairness and safeguards for participants who may need additional time and assistance in providing information to the NDIA.

Civil penalties

108:112. How will bad actors who are taking advantage of participants and scheme generally be handled?

- The *NDIS Amendment (Integrity and Safeguarding) Act 2026* introduced higher penalties and stronger regulatory interventions for the NDIS Commission to deter, respond to and ultimately prevent instances of non-compliance and safeguard participants from harm.
- This Bill builds on the *NDIS Amendment (Integrity and Safeguarding) Act 2026*. Upon implementation, the NDIA will be able to issue penalties for failures to comply with certain requirements, including requirements to provide information to the NDIA.

109:113. Why is this change necessary?

- Currently the NDIA only has access to strong powers such as criminal prosecution. It needs a broader suite of regulatory and enforcement powers to deter bad actors who seek to exploit the Scheme.
- While criminal prosecution addresses the worst offences against participants and the Scheme, the introduction of civil penalties provides a middle ground for tackling non-compliance, where legal action may not be appropriate or necessary.

NDIA regulatory powers

110:114. How will this Bill impact the NDIA's ability to investigate non-compliance?

- Whilst the NDIA can already raise debts and pursue criminal investigations and prosecutions, changes to allow a broader and more timely range of interventions to ensure the integrity of NDIS claims are required. This delivers additional tools to proportionately deal with non-compliance.

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- With this Bill, the NDIA will receive access to monitoring and investigation powers under the *Regulatory Powers (Standard Provisions) Act 2014* to strengthen effective responses to non-compliance. This will be applicable to both providers and participants in the Scheme.

115. What safeguards are in place to prevent the NDIA from abusing this power?

- In exercising regulatory powers for a participant, the NDIA must first undertake a risk assessment process. The NDIA already has a risk assessment process, which will be updated to support the introduction of this Bill.

Transitional rules

116. Why are the transitional (Henry VIII) rules required? What will the transitional rules allow?

- The Bill will include a transitional rule making powers **s 47C**
- The transitional rules are needed to enable the efficient implementation of the reforms and to address unforeseen implementation risks swiftly. This is especially important in the context of the immediate pressures already on the Scheme.
- **s 47C**
- This does not change the Commonwealth's commitment to work with states and territories, the disability community, and the Technical Advisory Group on the access changes.

s 47C

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NDIS Sustainability: Pre-Budget Announcement Q&A

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Released under the Freedom of Information Act 19 2 by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Cross-cutting

Question	Answer
Why are you acting now?	• We can't wait any longer to take action. We have made good progress in bringing growth in the NDIS down from 22 per cent to around 10 per cent. However, the Scheme continues to grow at a rate far higher than any other comparable program. • National Cabinet agreed in 2023 to set an interim NDIS growth target of 8 per cent. At that rate, the NDIS would increase its share of the economy by around 0.5 per cent over the coming decade. • In January 2026, National Cabinet recognised growth remains unsustainable and further work needs to be done to bring down growth to a revised target of 5 to 6 per cent, or lower. • The Agency's Actuary has recently advised that spending on the Scheme would blow out by \$13 billion over the next four years. • Left unchecked, that would mean we will not achieve the 8 per cent growth target for the next several years, let alone reach the more recent National Cabinet target. • The Government is determined to get runaway spending growth under control. And we're determined to do so immediately. When Parliament returns in Budget week, Minister Butler will introduce legislation to get a grip on Scheme growth and plan inflation. • These measures build on the <i>Getting the NDIS Back on Track</i> measures in the 2024-25 Budget and align with National Cabinet's commitment to reduce NDIS cost growth to 5-6 per cent to protect the Scheme for future generations.
Are you cutting entitlements for people with disability to fix a broken budget?	• No. The Scheme is growing at a rate far higher than any other comparable program and we can't wait any longer to take action. • The NDIS is one of Australia's great human rights advancements – a product of determined advocacy by disability advocates stretching back decades. • Within just 13 years, the NDIS is way off track. Its scale and chaotic market structure is distorting other parts of the care economy. Too often this means it is not providing high quality care to participants themselves. • There are also inadequate levers to control fraudulent actors who are taking advantage of the scheme. Perhaps most importantly – it's undermining its own social license. • We have to acknowledge that system design has limited our ability to implement changes to control spending growth and to ensure the Scheme is consistent with its original purpose. • Changes will build on work underway to implement critical recommendations of the Independent Review into the NDIS and the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

Question	Answer
What is the Government's overall fiscal target with the NDIS? When will you hit the 5 per cent annual growth target?	• The NDIS will continue to grow each year. It's projected that the NDIS will grow at around an average of 2 per cent over the next four years and 5 per cent in the medium term. • The NDIS will still be the largest social program in Australia, outside the Age Pension. It will continue to be the centrepiece of the most comprehensive suite of supports for people with a disability anywhere in the OECD.
How much money will this save?	• Under our reforms, the Scheme will grow from around \$51 billion this year to around \$55 billion by the end of the forward estimates – an average growth rate of around 2 per cent – before growing at 5 per cent over the medium term. • Spending controls and reforms will reduce growth in the Scheme by over \$20 billion over the next four years compared to what was projected in our latest budget update in December. • The package will directly address the causes of the potential \$13 billion cost increase projected by the Agency's Actuary. • Final numbers will be presented in the Budget papers.
Are costs of the Scheme actually being reduced, or is the Commonwealth just shifting the cost to state systems?	• These changes are not about shifting costs to states and territories. They are about restoring the Scheme to its original intent – supporting people with significant and permanent disability. • The changes will deliver on National Cabinet's agreement that further work needs to be done to bring down NDIS growth to a target of 5 to 6 per cent, or lower. • The NDIS was never intended to replace mainstream service systems to support all people with disability. • We have also provisioned \$3 billion in the budget for the remaining Commonwealth share towards Foundational Supports. We will work with states and territories on building up supports outside the Scheme for people with disability.
What are the key drivers of NDIS costs?	• The key drivers are ongoing growth in plan budgets; and the number of participants. • In the 12-months to 30 June 2025: ◦ The number of participants grew by 11.8 per cent ◦ Average plan budgets grew by 3.8 per cent • The NDIS was originally intended to support around 410,000 people with disability. Today there are 760,000 people on the scheme, but is currently projected to grow to a million participants by 2034.
How is the Government ensuring people who rely on the NDIS are still supported?	• We are implementing measures that build on the recommendations of the Independent Review into the NDIS, Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, and the original Productivity Commission's report. All of these reports and reviews have been informed by extensive consultation with the disability community and sector.

Question	Answer
	• Participants with the greatest level of needs will continue to have access to critical supports needed to live well and with dignity. These changes are needed to ensure the NDIS is sustainable and can continue to provide these supports to the people who need them most for generations to come. • Several of these measures focus on strengthening the ability of the NDIA and NDIS Commission to detect and reduce violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and fraud. These stronger NDIS fraud measures are designed to protect people with disability, not to make it harder to access critical supports that impact a participants health and safety. • We will continue engaging people with disability and the broader community to ensure the Scheme achieves its original intent of supporting people with permanent and significant disability.
Announcing future reforms with no detail will create a lot of uncertainty for those who rely on the NDIS. Why is the Government announcing so many reforms at once that contribute to this uncertainty?	• The measures that have been announced are not about system design or reform – they are simply good management. These are hard decisions – but they’re unavoidable and urgent. • These changes need to be made as a coherent package to urgently return the Scheme to its original intent and improve outcomes for participants. • Further reforms will be needed to ensure the Scheme delivers the best quality support possible for participants. • The Government will be engaging deeply with the disability community – and with the States – on this series of reforms we intend to pursue later in the year. • Changes will be implemented gradually over a transition period. More information will be provided to participants ahead of changes coming into effect.
These are significant reforms – why didn’t you consult? What happened to the principle of ‘Nothing About Us Without Us’?	• The measures that have been announced are not about system design or reform – they are simply good management. These are hard decisions – but they’re unavoidable and urgent. • These measures realign the Scheme with its original principles and address drivers of growth. • Many of these changes have been informed by the NDIS Review, the Disability Royal Commission and the 2011 Productivity Commission report. All of these reports and reviews were informed by extensive consultation with the disability community and sector. • Further reforms will be needed to ensure the Scheme delivers the best quality support possible for participants. • The Government is committed to working closely with the disability community and sector on longer term reforms.

Question	Answer
Do the measures impact existing participants? Will they be grandfathered?	• The legislation to be introduced when Parliament returns will contain some measures that will apply to existing participants (such as changes in their plans) as the Government refocuses on supports that are reasonable and necessary. • Existing participants will also benefit from better integrity and safeguarding measures that tackle fraud in the Scheme and register high risk NDIS providers. • We are working on fairer and more consistent access decisions to return the Scheme to its original intent of supporting people with permanent and significant disability. • Over time, applicants and current participants with high functional capacity, treatable impairments, or who are eligible for services from other systems may no longer be eligible for the Scheme. These people will access more appropriate alternative service systems for ongoing support.
Will funding levels for the NDIS go backwards?	• Under these changes, the Scheme will grow from around \$51 billion this year to around \$55 billion by the end of the forward estimates – an average growth rate of around 2 per cent – before growing at 5 per cent over the medium term. • The NDIS will still be the largest social program in Australia, outside the Age Pension. It will continue to be the centrepiece of the most comprehensive suite of supports for people with a disability anywhere in the OECD.
What are the new timeframes for making the rules, consultation and rollout of new framework planning? Is there a roadmap of what is going to happen when?	• The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing will continue to work with states and territories and the disability community in developing new framework planning rules. A further public consultation process will be undertaken later this year (August to September).

Access & Eligibility

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
Access	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	Will people be kicked off the scheme? Will the eligibility of who qualifies for the scheme change?	• The NDIS Review found the current approach to accessing the Scheme is inconsistent and inequitable. • Our changes are focused on fairer and more consistent access decisions to return the Scheme to its original intent of supporting people with permanent and significant disability. • To do this, we are making a stronger assessment process to determine eligibility. • We will establish a Technical Advisory Group to advise on thresholds and processes for assessment of functional capacity. • Over time, people with high functional capacity, treatable impairments, or who are eligible for services from other systems may no longer be eligible for the Scheme. These people will access more appropriate alternative service systems for ongoing support. • No changes to access will occur until January 2028. • Before then, we will seek advice from the Technical Advisory Group, and work with states and territories to ensure people who are no longer eligible for the Scheme are appropriately supported outside the NDIS.
s 47C			
SRFC	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	How will the Government consistently assess functional capacity?	• The NDIS Review found the Scheme had drifted from its original intent by relying too heavily on medical diagnosis as a gateway to access. This results in inconsistent and unfair access decisions and participants having to seek expensive medical diagnoses in order to access the Scheme. • In line with the NDIS Review's recommendations, we are working to develop a more objective assessment of functional capacity with advice from a Technical Advisory Group. • This will create a standardised approach to making consistent access decisions, ensuring people with permanent and significant disability are consistently supported by the Scheme.

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
Access lists	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	What are the access lists being removed? Who will no longer have access because of this?	- Access lists were initially implemented to streamline entry to the Scheme for prospective participants during the initial transition phase. - Access lists focus evidence on diagnosis, and means there is no requirement to have further evidence of functional capacity. - This has led to inconsistent and inequitable access decision making. It has also meant that people with higher levels of functional capacity can access to the Scheme than was originally intended. - Changing the use of access lists is a decision for the NDIA Board. The Government is recommending to the NDIA Board that these lists are removed to align with the implementation of a robust functional capacity assessment. - This assessment is better suited to assessing the functional needs of a participant. This was recommended by the NDIS Review. - This will support us to align the Scheme with its original intent of supporting people with significant and permanent impairment.
Permanence	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	How will the Government decide what is permanent? Will people with significant support needs be removed from the Scheme if their condition does not fit the new definition of permanence?	- The NDIS was designed for people with permanent and significant disability. - If a person can access treatment that will cure or alleviate the impact of an impairment, the NDIS is not the appropriate service system. - The NDIS Review highlighted that the current approach to accessing the Scheme is inconsistent and is not always targeted to those people with significant disability who need the most support. - We will be making the definition of a permanent impairment clearer to ensure the NDIS is supporting the people it was designed for. People without permanent impairment will be directed to a more appropriate service system. - These measures will not be fully implemented until 1 January 2028. We are taking the time to ensure pathways to alternate service systems are clear for those who are not eligible for the NDIS.
Thriving Kids	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	How do these new changes relate to Thriving Kids?	- These changes are in addition to Thriving Kids. Similar to Thriving Kids, these changes also aim to restore the Scheme to its original intent of supporting people with significant and permanent disability. - Access changes related to Thriving Kids will commence on 1 January 2028.

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
			• Thriving Kids will commence in a phased roll out from October 2026 providing support for children aged 8 and under with developmental delay and/or autism and low to moderate support needs. • We are working closely with state and territory governments to develop a threshold and process for diverting children aged 8 and under with autism and /or developmental delay and low to moderate support needs. • Children aged 8 and under already accessing the Scheme with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs will continue to be subject to reassessments under the eligibility criteria in place prior to 1 January 2028.

s 47C

Thriving Kids	Tranche 2 – Spring Bill	Have Queensland and Victoria signed up to Thriving Kids yet?	• All governments have now signed the National Agreement on Foundational Supports, which includes a commitment to jointly invest in Thriving Kids. • The Commonwealth and Queensland and Victoria are continuing to work together on bilateral agreements.
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s 47C

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
Psychosocial	n/a	Are you removing people with psychosocial disabilities?	• All Health Ministers have acknowledged the need to improve access to psychosocial supports across the country. • All jurisdictions confirmed funding for psychosocial supports will be maintained, including in a future national agreement. • My priority for the next stage of work on Foundational Supports is for people with psychosocial disability. This will consider the interplay with eligibility for psychosocial supports within the NDIS. • Consultations on future arrangements for psychosocial support services will include people with lived experience and sector representatives.

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Supports

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
Reassessments	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	What will happen to participants who have used up all of the funding in their NDIS plan if they cannot schedule a reassessment with the NDIA?	• The Government has introduced safeguards, including funding periods to ensure funding is available across the duration of a participant's plan. • Other supports are available to help a participant to manage funding in their plan – including plan managers, plan nominees and support coordination. • If a participant has experienced fraud or a crisis or emergency situation, they can request a plan variation.
R&N Supports	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	How is the Government determining what supports are reasonable and necessary?	• A lack of clarity about what supports are considered reasonable and necessary has led to confusion and a broadening in supports funded by the NDIS over time. • The volume of supports funded under the NDIS has become out-of-step with other parts of the care and support economy. • We are taking steps to better align NDIS supports with other social service systems in Australia. To do this we will strengthen guidance and legislation about what is reasonable and necessary. • For example, supports will need to be solely related to an impairment for which a person gained access to the Scheme for.
SCCP / CBDA	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	Why is the Government targeting funding for community and social participation and capacity building supports?	• The current way the NDIS has funded social and community participation has meant that the programs which once provided real opportunities for connection have been scaled back. • A reliance on individualised NDIS-funded supports has led to scaling back of inclusive community based programs, clubs and social infrastructure. • The volume of community access and therapy supports – things like trips to the cinema or outings to the local park - funded by the NDIS has grown considerably. Spend on social, civic and community participation has tripled over the last 5 years. Social, civic and community participation now accounts for 24 per cent of total Scheme spend, growing from 18 per cent before COVID. • This is at odds with what is funded in other support systems. Spending on community access supports now costs the same as what we spend on the entire <u>net</u> Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. • We will return the budget for these supports to a more reasonable level.

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
			s 47C
SCCP / CBDA	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	How are participants expected to engage in their community or build their capacity if they are having funding cut from these supports?	• The NDIS funds community access and therapy supports at a much higher level than other Government-funded programs. • We will return the budget for these supports to a more reasonable level. • After we reduce budgets for social, civic and community participation supports, the average NDIS participant with these supports in their plan will still be funded to access the community for around 6 hours per week. ○ For the average SIL participant, they would be funded for 11.4 hours a week. ○ Participants could extend this further if they accessed group-based community activities, sharing the cost of a single support worker with others. • After we reduce budgets for capacity building daily activities, the average NDIS participant (including SIL participants) with these supports in their plan will be funded for just over 1-hour per week. ○ These supports are particularly beneficial to young children and people adjusting to a newly acquired impairment, however, supports are often not reduced over time as capacity builds.
SCCP / CBDA	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	Doesn't this budget cut directly impact a participant's choice and control?	• In the NDIS, choice and control means people with disability have the right to decide how they receive supports, who provides them and how their supports are delivered. • Choice and control is a core principle of the NDIS, but is not unlimited. The NDIS was never intended to fund day-to-day living costs or duplicate other service systems. • Participants will still have choice and control over how they use their budget, but the volume of community access and therapy supports funded by the NDIS will be more in step with other parts of the care and support economy.
SCCP / CBDA	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	Why don't you just fix fraud and provider registration first before cutting	• The Government is making a number of changes to provider registration that will reduce the risk of fraud and harms to the participant. • The government will soon require all providers of high risk NDIS supports (for example, assistance with ventilation) to become registered. • Most providers will also need to enrol with the NDIA to receive payments, and all claims will have increased evident requirements.

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
		participants' budgets?	- The <i>NDIS Amendment (Integrity and Safeguarding) Act 2026</i> introduced higher penalties and stronger interventions for the NDIS Commission to deter, respond to and address instances of non-compliance and safeguard participants from harm. - We are reinvesting into the Fraud Fusion Taskforce and the NDIA's Payment Integrity Review workforce to continue this critical work. - We are also planning for further legislative amendments to address fraud in the scheme. - But while tackling fraud is vital for integrity and trust we must acknowledge that it doesn't move the needle much on the overall budget. - Even with our fraud measures, the costs of the Scheme are far beyond that which was originally expected and more needs to be done to manage growth and ensure the NDIS is sustainable for future generations.

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Market Oversight

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
Provider registration	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	Why do providers need to be registered?	• All NDIS providers must always meet their obligations under the NDIS Act and Code of Conduct, regardless of their registration status. • The government will soon require all providers of high risk NDIS supports (for example, assistance with ventilation) to become registered. • This is part of how we are addressing the recommendations of the NDIS Review and Disability Royal Commission to strengthen safeguards for participants. • Registration of high-risk providers will allow the NDIS Commission to have appropriate oversight of NDIS supports which have the potential to cause harm to the participant. • Registration of providers gives participants the assurance that the service they have selected is actually able to provide the supports they require, and that the Government has the required oversight to keep them safe from harm and exploitation. • Greater visibility of the NDIS market will enable the NDIS Commission to proactively address high risk practices, and remove providers who do the wrong thing. This will improve the quality of service from the providers who remain in the market.
Provider Registration	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	What is changing? Who will need to be registered? Why won't every provider need to be registered?	• We are introducing the requirement for providers delivering 'high risk' supports to be registered with the NDIS Commission. • This improves the NDIS Commission's oversight of these providers and improves our ability to protect participants who are most at risk of abuse and exploitation. • We are focusing on improving oversight of high-risk supports as these are critical services where people with disability are most exposed to exploitation, violence, abuse and neglect. • At this stage, we don't need every provider to be registered with the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission. • Expansion of provider registration will be considered in the future.
Payment systems	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	What changes are being made to payment service systems? Will this make	• All providers of services will need to enroll with the NDIA and will be paid directly into a nominated and validated bank account. • There will be new evidence thresholds for all claims. • This enrolment system solely relates to payment for services provided and is separate to becoming a NDIS registered provider through the NDIS Commission.

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
		payments harder for participants?	
Support coordination	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	What is changing about support coordination?	• We are changing the way support coordination services under the NDIS are delivered. • This will address issues we have heard from the community about the quality and integrity of the current support coordination market. This includes poor and inconsistent service quality, conflicts of interest and fraudulent practices. • Under a new model, the Government will directly commission providers to deliver a new support coordination and connection service for people with disability. This service is expected to roll out from mid-2028. • This means participants will no longer need to pay for support coordination services with funding from their NDIS plans. Instead, they will be able to choose from a range of providers funded directly by Government to deliver these services. • Government will have better oversight and control of the quality of services participants receive. • The new service will be commissioned, driving better efficiency in the market and supporting the sustainability of the NDIS.
Plan management	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	How many Plan Managers are currently in the system? Why are you reducing the number of Plan Managers in the Scheme?	• Currently, there are approximately 1,400 plan management providers. • Reducing the number of plan management providers through a commissioning approach will improve the quality of plan management services and remove higher-risk plan management providers. • The plan management panel will establish strict quality, regulation and monitoring standards for panel members. • Plan managers will continue to play an important role supporting participants to manage their NDIS plan budgets. This includes monitoring spending against their budgets, checking and ensuring claims meet legislative and integrity checks, submitting invoices to the NDIS, and paying providers. • There will be a transition period following the launch of the panel. • During the transition period, participants will be able to continue to access plan management services from their existing plan management provider.
Plan management	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	Will plan managed participants'	• There will be no changes to plan managed NDIS participants' existing budgets as a result of lowering the fees paid to plan management providers.

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
		budgets be reduced to reflect that plan management fees will be reduced?	- The new, reduced fee will apply for all plan management services from the time the panel is implemented (and the start of the 6-month transition period for plan management providers who are not selected to be part of the panel). Plan management providers will only be able to claim in accordance with the new price limit. - Funds in participant plans for plan management services cannot be used for other purposes. Any unspent funds will not be rolled over into a new plan. - The funding amount for plan management services in NDIS participants' plans will be updated to reflect the new fees for plan management services when a participant's plan is next re-assessed.
Support coordination	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	Why is the Government implementing a cap on funding for the delivery of a new support coordination service? Will this reduce the number of participants who can access support coordination?	- Costs for support coordination services have rapidly grown in recent years, but this growth in cost has not resulted in a corresponding increase in good service quality or outcomes for participants. - In some cases, there is a mismatch between a participant's level of need and the level of support they receive from support coordinators. - The new commissioned support coordination service, while capped, will drive better efficiency in the support coordination market. - Service design and implementation will be informed by engagement with the disability community and sector.
SIL	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	Why is the government only announcing consultation on SIL commissioning?	- Supported Independent Living (SIL) provides support to some of the most vulnerable NDIS participants who require the most support. - Only 5 per cent of participants access SIL, but SIL supports represent 26 per cent of total Scheme costs. - Despite being a significant and growing share of Scheme costs, some providers are not profitable or viable over the medium term without structural and pricing changes for this market segment. - The NDIA's Quality SIL pilot is already underway to help understand these concerns and the practical means to resolve and stabilise the SIL market.

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
			- Commissioning a portion of the SIL market, to be determined through design and consultation, and considering alternate payment approaches, offers the best solution to these market failures. - Commissioning will provide greater certainty of revenue for providers, while controlling cost growth.
SIL	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	What consultation will be done on SIL commissioning? Who will be consulted?	- Consultation will seek to understand SIL market challenges faced by both participants and providers. Consultation will focus on the most effective commissioning model that balances participant and provider needs as part of a sustainable service model. This model will look to promote market viability, housing innovation, and improved participant outcomes whilst constraining future cost growth for SIL. - Targeted consultation will hear from Scheme participants using SIL, their families and carers, SIL providers and industry representatives (including peak bodies and union representatives).
SIL	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	Won't moving to a commissioned market impact on participants choice and control?	- No decisions have been made on the commissioning model. This will be informed by consultation and subject to further decisions of Government. - Moving to a commissioned market is expected to improve the effective choice and control of participants by offering them more certainty on the service offering. Consultation will include a focus on how to provide more innovative and quality services that meet their needs, whilst ensuring long term stability of providers.
Pricing decision-maker	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	Why is the Minister assuming control of NDIS pricing decisions?	- Currently, pricing decisions are made by the NDIA Board. This means Ministers and the Commonwealth responsible for the cost of the Scheme has limited input into NDIS pricing decisions. - Establishing responsibility for NDIS pricing decisions with the Minister for the NDIS will strengthen pricing transparency, predictability and alignment across care sectors. - The Government will separately consider whether the pricing function should transfer from NDIA to an independent entity like the Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA).
Pricing decision-maker	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	How will pricing decision-making changes impact	- The final report of the NDIS Review identified pricing as an important area for the NDIS. - The report pointed to a range of issues that are undermining participant and provider confidence in the NDIS pricing regulatory framework – a lack of evidence around

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
		participants and providers?	pricing decisions, delays in the completion of the NDIA's Annual Pricing Reviews, and opaque price setting processes. Transferring pricing decision-making authority to the Minister will help address these issues by ensuring government oversight over NDIS pricing changes and align with other care sectors, such as aged care.
Pricing decision-maker	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	Does the Commonwealth plan to significantly reduce pricing limits for NDIS providers to reduce Scheme costs? Has the impact on the market been considered?	- NDIS pricing reforms are being delivered to strengthen pricing transparency, better reflect the cost of providing services and promote alignment across the care and support economy. - Pricing decisions will promote access to safe, affordable and quality supports for participants and foster a diverse and sustainable NDIS market. - NDIA will retain responsibility for conducting independent analysis and stakeholder engagement to inform pricing advice to the Minister. - This function is currently conducted by the NDIA through the Annual Pricing Review and its three-year pricing work plan, which informs price limits for different supports.
Differentiated pricing	Enabled by Tranche 1 – Winter Bill (pricing decision-maker)	What is differentiated pricing and what does it mean for participants?	- The NDIS currently applies uniform price caps for supports regardless of provider registration status, which means current price settings do not accurately reflect additional regulatory costs faced by registered providers. - These additional regulatory costs arise from compliance requirements in relation to the NDIS Practice Standards, certification audits, worker screening requirements, incident management systems, and ongoing quality assurance obligations. - Differentiated pricing will ensure an accurate reflection, through price, of regulatory cost whilst incentivising and supporting registration. - It will have the added benefit of allowing participants to choose from providers who will deliver safe, effective, and high quality supports that meet their needs.

Fraud & Non-Compliance

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
Fraud	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	The leakage from Fraud is one in 10 dollars. Are you really doing enough to get rid of the shonks and rorters?	• Since 2022, the Government has invested more than \$550 million to build integrity within the NDIS and foster compliance. • This includes the establishment of the Fraud Fusion Taskforce, the Crack Down on Fraud ICT uplift programs and the NDIA's Payment Integrity Review Workforce. • We are continuing to work to reduce fraud and strengthen fraud and financial controls, including reinvestment into the Fraud Fusion Taskforce and the NDIA's Payment Integrity Review workforce. • We have taken extra steps to reduce fraud in the Scheme through the <i>NDIS Amendment (Integrity and Safeguarding) Act 2026</i> which will improve safeguarding and respond to instances of non-compliance, abuse, neglect and harm. • This is a strong step forward in our progress to stamp out fraud. These changes strengthen the role of the NDIA and NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission to prevent, address, investigate and respond to breaches of the Act, including fraud and non-compliance. • We are planning for further legislative amendments to address fraud in the scheme. This will strengthen the NDIA's regulatory controls and ability to implement penalties for providers.

Governance

Topic	Tranche	Question	Answer
Co-governance	Tranche 1 – Winter Bill	Is the Government cutting states and territories out of their role as Scheme co-governors by removing their role in issuing ministerial directions?	• The Commonwealth values the role of states and territories as co-governors of the NDIS. • This change gives the minister power to issue directions to the NDIA's Board and CEO, but it does not replace a shared governance model with the commonwealth and states and territories. • States and territories will continue to have a strong voice in key decisions for the scheme. • We will continue working closely with states and territories to manage the Scheme, including working towards existing National Cabinet commitments to secure the future of the NDIS.

Released under the Freedom of Information Act 19 2 by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

s47E(c), s47F

From: NDIS Sustainability Taskforce s47E(d) health.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 30 April 2026 1:54 PM
To: News
Cc: DC Executive; NDIS Sustainability Taskforce; LONG, Anthea; O'BRIEN, Simon; s47E(c), s47F
Subject: RE: MEDIA ENQUIRY FOR RESPONSE by COB Thursday - ABC Riverland - NDIS changes [SEC=OFFICIAL]

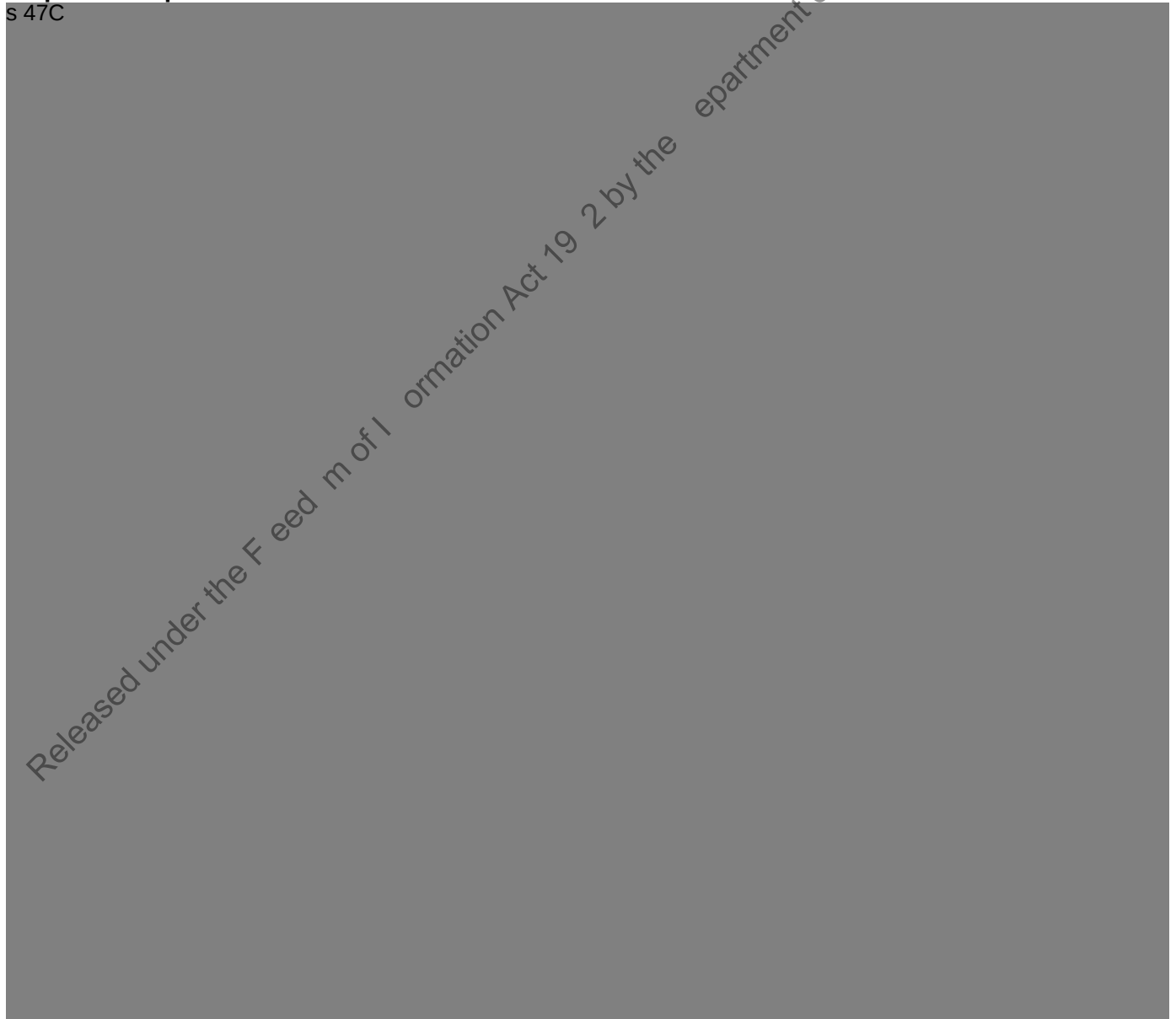
OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Team,

Please see FAS cleared input.

Proposed response:

s 47C



Kind regards,

s47E(c), s47F

If you are using a screen reader, this email stops here and it is my signature block below.

s47E(c), s47F

Executive Support Officer to Anthea Long
Lead, NDIS Sustainability Taskforce

Disability and Carers Group
Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
E: s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au M: s47E(c), s47F

This email comes to you from Ngunnawal Land
Location: Yaradhang
PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

OFFICIAL

From: News
Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 5:13 PM
To: NDIS Sustainability Taskforce
Cc: News ; s47E(c), s47F ; DC Executive
Subject: MEDIA ENQUIRY FOR RESPONSE by COB Thursday - ABC Riverland - NDIS changes
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi team,

We have received the below media enquiry from s47F at the ABC regarding NDIS changes.
Can you please provide a cleared response by 3pm tomorrow?

Enquiry:

s 47F

I'd be interested in a pre-recorded phone interview tomorrow with the Health Minister or a government representative covering the following:

- Will children and adults living with autism be included on the NDIS after the changes come into effect?
- Are people with disabilities that aren't easily recognised at first glance, such as autism, more likely to be removed from the NDIS after the changes?
- Does the government recognise that life can become more challenging for people living with autism as they get older?
- Will occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy, and support workers that come under the social and community participation band under NDIS cease to exist after the changes?
- What will the government do to make sure people taken off the NDIS aren't left behind?

s22

Thanks,

s47E(c), s47F

Media and Events, Corporate Communication Branch

Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

T: s47E(c), s47F | s47E(c), s47F E: news@health.gov.au

Unless stated otherwise, this information is provided on a background basis and should not be attributed.

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

OFFICIAL

From: s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 5:03 PM

To: News <news@health.gov.au>

Cc: s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F Health.gov.au>;

s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F

s47E(c), s47F Health.gov.au>

Subject: FW: ABC Riverland request for comment [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi can we please get a statement on this.

s47E(c), s47F if Min McAllister wanted to take this interview opportunity.

OFFICIAL

From: s47F abc.net.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 29 April 2026 4:42 PM

To: s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>; s47E(c), s47F

s47E(c), s47F @Health.gov.au>

Subject: ABC Riverland request for comment

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s47E(c), s47F

This is s47F from ABC Riverland, I hope you've been well.

s 47F

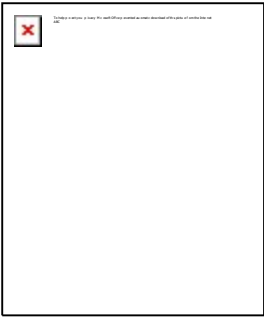
I'd be interested in a pre-recorded phone interview tomorrow with the Health Minister or a government representative covering the following:

- Will children and adults living with autism be included on the NDIS after the changes come into effect?
- Are people with disabilities that aren't easily recognised at first glance, such as autism, more likely to be removed from the NDIS after the changes?
- Does the government recognise that life can become more challenging for people living with autism as they get older?
- Will occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy, and support workers that come under the social and community participation band under NDIS cease to exist after the changes?
- What will the government do to make sure people taken off the NDIS aren't left behind?

If an interview is not possible, we'd also welcome a statement from the government in response to the questions above.

My deadline is **COB tomorrow (Thursday 30/04)**.

Thanks,



s47F

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians
and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

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2026-27 Budget Issues Brief no.24

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

- The Government will introduce reforms to restore the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to its original intent of supporting people with permanent and significant disability and secure the Scheme for future generations.
- The Government will provide \$1.7 billion over five years from 2025-26 to support people with disability and deliver reforms to the NDIS. These reforms will reduce growth in NDIS payments by \$37.8 billion over four years from 2026-27, or \$24.6 billion below the 2025-26 MYEFO projections over the same period. The NDIS is now projected to grow at an average of 2 per cent from 2026-27 to 2029-30, before growing at 5 per cent per year over the medium term consistent with National Cabinet's commitment.
- The Government will also provide \$2.0 billion over five years from 2026-27, matched by states and territories, to deliver the Thriving Kids program. Thriving Kids will support children aged eight and under with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs, as well as their families, carers and kin.
- The Government has also made a provision of \$200 million to establish an Inclusive Communities Fund and \$3 billion as the Commonwealth's contribution to future Foundational Supports.

Key facts and figures

Securing the National Disability Insurance Scheme for Future Generations

- The Government will provide \$1.7 billion over five years from 2025-26 (and \$110.9 million per year ongoing) to support people with disability and to improve the quality of supports delivered through the NDIS. Funding includes:
 - \$436.0 million in 2026-27 to ensure the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) can continue to support NDIS participants
 - \$358.5 million over five years from 2025-26 to develop and implement a new enrolment and digital payment system to improve payment integrity and reduce fraud and non-compliant payments. Partial funding for this measure will be held in the Contingency Reserve
 - \$280.1 million over five years from 2025-26 (and \$53.0 million per year ongoing) to continue the Fraud Fusion Taskforce and invest in the NDIA to continue to detect and respond to fraud and non-compliant payments
 - \$270.1 million in 2026-27 to prepare for the roll-out and implementation of new framework planning from 1 April 2027

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- \$182.6 million over four years from 2026-27 (and \$46.1 million per year ongoing) to introduce mandatory registration of high-risk NDIS providers, with costs partially offset by \$27.1 million over three years from 2027-28 (and \$5.4 million per year ongoing) in receipts from expanded cost recovery arrangements
- \$49.4 million over four years from 2026–27 to commission plan management and support coordination services for NDIS participants to reduce fraud and improve service quality for participants
- \$48.4 million over three years from 2025–26 to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and the NDIA to support consultation on and implementation of NDIS reforms
- \$21.7 million over four years from 2026–27 (and \$5.8 million ongoing) to support the NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission’s (NDIS Commission) regulatory and compliance activities, with costs to be met from within the existing resourcing of the NDIS Commission
- \$15.9 million over four years from 2026–27 (and \$6.0 million ongoing) for Disability Representative Organisations to support community engagement on the design and implementation of reforms, with costs to be partially met from within the existing resources of the NDIA and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
- \$14.7 million over two years from 2026–27 to extend supplementary funding for the NDIS Appeals program
- \$3.3 million in 2026–27 to establish a Technical Advisory Group to provide expertise on the design of functional capacity assessment tools and instruments.
- The Government has also provisioned \$200.0 million over three years from 2026–27 to establish an Inclusive Communities Fund to support community organisations to deliver group based social and community participation activities and individual capacity building support for NDIS participants, with funding held in the Contingency Reserve pending further design and consultation with the disability community.
- The Government will also consult on a commissioning approach for home and living supports for participants who need 24/7 support, further reforms to the market for participant supports for social and community participation and capacity building activities, differentiated pricing, and the design of functional capacity assessment tools and instruments.

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Thriving Kids

- The Government will also provide \$2.0 billion over five years from 2026-27 to deliver national services, fund enabling supports and contribute to state and territory services for the Thriving Kids program. Together with investments from states and territories, Thriving Kids will support children aged eight and under with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs, as well as their families, carers and kin. Funding includes:
 - \$1.4 billion over five years from 2026-27 to states and territories to deliver Thriving Kids services
 - \$139.7 million over five years from 2026-27 to facilitate Thriving Kids services for children in early childhood education and care settings, with funding held in the Contingency Reserve pending consultation and design with states and territories
 - \$126.1 million over five years from 2026-27 to support the early identification of children with developmental delay or neurodevelopmental difference through a Medicare funded three-year old health assessment and an expanded Comprehensive Health Assessment Program
 - \$120.9 million over five years from 2026-27 to provide national and local information and advice to parents and families on childhood development, including through a national phone line, and a national autism information and advice helpline
 - \$99.5 million over five years from 2026-27 to empower parents, carers and kin with the skills to support children with developmental concerns or autism through Mental Health in Primary Schools and the Positive Partnerships Program, and through a National Digital Child Health Record in My Health Record. Partial funding will be held in the Contingency Reserve until the Government has considered a business case for future stages of the Child Health Record
 - \$60.8 million over five years from 2026-27 to support workforce development and training, including dedicated funding for the First Nations workforce
 - \$21.6 million over three years from 2026-27 for a national communications campaign to raise public awareness of developmental differences and Thriving Kids services
 - \$20.4 million over five years from 2026-27 for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to support implementation of the Thriving Kids program
 - \$16.3 million over five years from 2026-27 to support community engagement, monitoring, and evaluation of the Thriving Kids program.

Changes to NDIS estimates

- Payments related to NDIS participant supports are estimated to increase by \$690.9 million in 2025-26 and decrease by \$24.6 billion over the four years from 2026-27 to 2029-30. Participant supports are estimated to cost \$52.4 billion in 2026-27 and \$263.3 billion over the five years from 2025-26 to 2029-30, in underlying cash balance terms.
- The 2026-27 Budget estimates for the NDIS are based on updated projections by the NDIS Actuary which used data up to December 2025 and the impacts of NDIS reforms included in the 2026-27 Budget measure *Securing the NDIS for Future Generations* (2026-27 Budget reforms). The 2025-26 MYEFO estimates are based on the 2024-25 Annual Financial Sustainability Report which used data up to June 2025.
- The NDIS Actuary has projected that, without the 2026-27 Budget reforms, NDIS participant support payments would increase by \$690.9 million in 2025-26 and \$13.9 billion over five years from 2025-26 to 2029-30. The projected increase in NDIS expenditure is primarily due to increased average payments per participant which is driven by higher-than-expected plan inflation, and the impacts of delayed implementation of new framework planning from July 2026 to April 2027.

Impacts of NDIS reforms

- The *National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill* (the Bill) will be introduced into the Parliament following the release of the 2026-27 Budget. The Bill continues the work of the Government to restore the NDIS to its original intent of supporting people with permanent and significant disability and securing the Scheme for future generations. Changes will include:
 - tighter criteria for unscheduled reassessment and measures to reduce plan cost growth
 - a reset of participant budgets for social and community participation and capacity building daily activities
 - the introduction of standardised, evidence-based assessments to determine access to the Scheme which will not commence until 1 January 2028
 - fraud prevention by improving the quality of plan managers and support coordinators, expanding categories of mandatory provider registration and enrolling providers in a digital payments system.
- The proposed legislative reforms are in addition to the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Integrity and Safeguarding) Act 2026* which expanded the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission's powers to detect, prevent and respond to breaches of obligations under the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013*.

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- It is projected that the 2026-27 Budget reforms will moderate growth in NDIS payments by \$37.8 billion over four years from 2026-27, in underlying cash balance terms.
- After accounting for the 2026-27 Budget reforms, it is projected that by 30 June 2026 there will be 783,313 NDIS participants, decreasing to 632,379 NDIS participants by 30 June 2030, which is 262,979 less than the 895,358 participants projected by 30 June 2030 at the 2025-26 MYEFO. As at 31 December 2025, there were 761,442 NDIS participants, which is 1,400 more participants than projected at the 2025-26 MYEFO.

Annual growth rates

- The revised estimates confirm the Government is on track to deliver on National Cabinet's commitment to reduce annual growth in NDIS expenses to at or below 5 to 6 per cent (measured in fiscal balance terms). Total NDIS support costs, including contributions from states and territories, are projected to grow:
 - In expense (fiscal balance) terms at an average of 1.7 per cent across the forward estimates (4.7 per cent in 2026-27, 0.2 per cent in 2027-28, 0.9 per cent in 2028-29 and 0.9 per cent in 2029-30).
 - In payment (underlying cash) terms at an average of 2.2 per cent over the forward estimates (5.3 per cent in 2026-27, 1.3 per cent in 2027-28, 1.1 per cent in 2028-29 and 1.0 per cent in 2029-30).

Table 1: NDIS participant supports growth rates (expenses – fiscal balance terms)

	Actuals			Estimates				
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Expenses - NDIA Program 1.1 (\$ billions)	35.2	41.9	46.4	51.3	53.7	53.8	54.3	54.8
Growth rate (%)	22.9	19.0	10.8	10.5	4.7	0.2	0.9	0.9

- The difference between the payment (underlying cash) and expense (fiscal balance) is due to the lag between expenses being accrued, and payments being made.
- NDIS estimates would normally be updated in prior economic updates to ensure that growth rates were below the NDIS Financial Sustainability Framework (the Framework) annual growth target for participant support costs (in fiscal balance terms) of no more than 8 per cent by 1 July 2026. However, growth in all years from 2026-27 is below the Framework targets and National Cabinet has now committed to target NDIS annual growth to at or below 5 to 6 per cent.

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- On 30 January 2026, National Cabinet agreed to adjust state and territory NDIS contribution rates to be in line with actual NDIS growth, capped at 8 per cent, from 1 July 2028 with a review point in 2030-31. As a result of the reduced growth rates, state and territory NDIS contributions are projected to reduce by \$2.8 billion over two years from 2028-29, and a further \$29.6 billion over the seven years from 2030-31 to 2036-37.
- The Commonwealth share of participant support costs is projected to grow in underlying cash balance terms by 5.0 per cent in 2026-27, decrease by 1.8 per cent in 2027-28, increase by 1.1 per cent in 2028-29, and increase by 1.0 per cent in 2029-30. The decrease in growth of the Commonwealth share in 2027-28 is due to state and territory contributions growing at a fixed rate of approximately 4 per cent per year, prior to 1 July 2028, while total NDIS payments are growing at 1.3 per cent.

NDIS expenses as a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

- NDIS participant support expenses are projected to be 1.7 per cent of GDP in 2025-26 decreasing to 1.6 per cent in 2029-30, or around the same as expenditure on aged care (1.5 per cent). Without the 2026-27 Budget reforms, NDIS expenditure would have been 2.0 per cent of GDP in 2029-30.

Medium Term

- Medium term projections for NDIS participant support costs reflect the continued impacts of reforms to the NDIS, including the 2026-27 Budget reforms.
- The 2026-27 Budget reforms are projected to reduce NDIS participant payments (underlying cash) by \$200.3 billion over the seven years from 2030-31 to 2036-37 or \$201.6 billion in fiscal balance terms. Annual NDIS participant payments growth is expected to average 5.1 per cent over the seven years from 2030-31 to 2036-37, or 5.0 per cent in fiscal balance terms, and 4.0 per cent over the 11 years from 2026-27 to 2036-37 in underlying cash terms or 3.7 per cent in fiscal balance terms.
- NDIS Commonwealth-funded participant payments growth is expected to average 3.6 per cent over the medium term (2026-27 to 2036-37), compared to 7.6 per cent in the 2025-26 MYEFO (2025-26 to 2035-36).
- Total NDIS payments at the end of the medium term (2036-37) are now estimated to be \$76.6 billion in underlying cash balance terms, down from \$109.1 billion as at the 2025-26 MYEFO, a reduction of \$32.5 billion or 30.0 per cent.

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Thriving Kids and foundational supports

- The Commonwealth and the states will contribute \$4 billion dollars over five years from 2026-27 to 2030-31, split 50:50 on a per capita basis, to implement Thriving Kids. The Commonwealth's contributions towards Thriving Kids are included in the 2026-27 Budget measure *Thriving Kids*.
- As agreed by National Cabinet on 30 January 2026, the Commonwealth will provide \$1.4 billion of the Commonwealth's \$2.0 billion contribution directly to the states to assist with the development and implementation of Thriving Kids services.
- States have also provided in-principle agreement to access changes which would divert children aged eight and under with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs from the NDIS, expected to commence 1 January 2028. NDIS participants aged eight and under who are enrolled prior to 1 January 2026 will remain subject to the eligibility criteria in place on 31 December 2027.
- On 22 April 2026, Minister Butler announced further work with the states on the development of Foundational Supports, with \$6 billion allocated to this work by earlier decisions of National Cabinet. The 2026-27 Budget includes a \$3 billion provision for the Commonwealth's contribution towards Foundational Supports.
- These foundational supports will be additional to other existing Commonwealth supports for children with disability, including:
 - The Schooling Resourcing Standard disability loading, which will provide an estimated \$4.9 billion in 2026 to support students with disability to participate fully in school
 - The Inclusion Support Program, which will provide \$247.3 million in 2026-27 to support Early Childhood Education and Care service providers to provide quality inclusive services and address access and participation barriers for children with disability.

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2026-27 Budget National Disability Insurance Scheme

	2025-26 (\$m)	2026-27 (\$m)	2027-28 (\$m)	2028-29 (\$m)	2029-30 (\$m)	Total (\$m)
SPENDING						
Securing the National Disability Insurance Scheme for Future Generations*	-2.5	-1,010.8	-277.7	-175.8	-179.3	-1,646.0
Thriving Kids**^	0.0	-427.4	-436.0	-396.9	-368.1	-1,628.5
Sub Total – SPENDING	-2.5	-1,438.2	-713.7	-572.8	-547.4	-3,274.5
SAVINGS & REVENUE ITEMS						
Securing the National Disability Insurance Scheme for Future Generations	0.0	2,013.6	7,439.4	11,839.2	16,572.7	37,864.9
Sub Total – SAVINGS & REVENUE	0.0	2,013.6	7,439.4	11,839.2	16,572.7	37,864.9
Total (NET)	-2.5	575.4	6,725.7	11,266.5	16,025.3	34,590.5

*Includes funds held in the Contingency Reserve as a Decision Taken But Not Yet Allocated and announced as part of the measure.

^Does not include the impacts of reversal of the \$2.0 billion Thriving Kids provision.

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Attachment A – NDIS Participant Support Costs

Payments (\$billion) Underlying Cash Balance	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2026-27 to 2029-30
2026-27 Budget	-49.8	-52.4	-53.1	-53.7	-54.2	-213.5
<i>Growth%</i>	10.6%	5.3%	1.3%	1.1%	1.0%	
Commonwealth share	-37.8	-39.7	-39.0	-39.4	-39.8	-157.9
<i>Growth%</i>	13.5%	5.0%	-1.8%	1.1%	1.0%	
<i>Commonwealth share%</i>	76.0%	75.7%	73.4%	73.4%	73.4%	
States and Territories share	-12.0	-12.8	-14.2	-14.3	-14.4	-55.6
2025-26 MYEFO	-49.1	-52.7	-57.4	-61.7	-66.4	-238.1
<i>Growth%</i>	9.1%	7.3%	8.9%	7.5%	7.7%	
Change in estimates between economic updates	-0.7	0.2	4.2	7.9	12.2	24.6
<i>Comprising:</i>						
<u>Policy decisions</u>						
<i>Securing the National Disability Insurance Scheme for Future Generations</i>	0.0	2.0	7.4	11.8	16.6	37.8
<u>Estimates variations</u>						
<i>Update of Scheme expense</i>	-1.1	-1.6	-1.8	-2.2	-2.9	-8.4
<i>Impact of delay to New Framework Planning</i>	0.0	-0.2	-1.3	-1.5	-1.3	-4.3
<i>Updates to NDIS participants in Residential Aged Care</i>	0.4	..	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.5
<i>Impacts of revenue from state and territory NDIS contributions*</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.9	-1.9	-2.8

The difference between the fiscal balance and underlying cash variations is due to the timing of payments.

*Does not impact payments but increases the Commonwealth share of payments

Expense (\$billion) Fiscal Balance	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2026-27 to 2029-30
2026-27 Budget	-51.3	-53.7	-53.8	-54.3	-54.8	-216.5
<i>Growth%</i>	10.5%	4.7%	0.2%	0.9%	0.9%	
Commonwealth share	-38.2	-40.1	-39.6	-40.0	-40.4	-160.1
<i>Growth%</i>	12.9%	4.9%	-1.1%	0.9%	0.9%	
<i>Commonwealth share%</i>	74.5%	74.7%	73.7%	73.7%	73.7%	
States and Territories share	-13.1	-13.6	-14.2	-14.3	-14.4	-56.5
2025-26 MYEFO	-50.7	-54.0	-58.1	-62.5	-67.3	-241.8
<i>Growth%</i>	9.2%	6.4%	7.7%	7.5%	7.7%	
Change in estimates between economic updates	-0.6	0.3	4.3	8.2	12.5	25.3
<i>Comprising:</i>						
<u>Policy decisions</u>						
<i>Securing the National Disability Insurance Scheme for Future Generations</i>	0.0	2.0	7.5	11.9	16.7	38.1
<u>Estimates variations</u>						
<i>Update of Scheme expense</i>	-0.6	-1.6	-1.8	-2.2	-2.9	-8.5
<i>Impact of delay to New Framework Planning</i>	0.0	-0.2	-1.3	-1.5	-1.3	-4.3
<i>Impacts of revenue from state and territory NDIS contributions*</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.9	-1.9	-2.8

The difference between the fiscal balance and underlying cash variations is due to the timing of payments.

*Does not impact expense but increases the Commonwealth share of expenses