

Technical Advisory Group on NDIS Functional Capacity – Communiqué

13 October 2026

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

The meeting focused on the development of a future assessment model for NDIS access. This includes consideration of assessment tools, evidence requirements and thresholds to inform NDIS access decisions. Members considered what evidence might be appropriate to assess a person's functional capacity and how to ensure confidence and quality. Members also discussed workforce considerations. It was noted that everyone should have equitable access to functional capacity assessment, regardless of where they live or their cultural background.

Members considered the interaction between substantially reduced functional capacity and permanence. Members discussed evidence requirements to support permanence decisions and the application of the policy to episodic, fluctuating and progressive impairments.

Members also considered early findings from the public consultation on proposed NDIS access reforms and other engagement activities. Public consultation opened on 31 August and closed on 2 October 2026. Submissions are being reviewed and will inform updates to the draft framework and work to develop the future assessment model.

It was noted that, in addition to the public consultation, a number of targeted community focus groups, roundtables and workshops are being held. These are giving people with disability and stakeholders an opportunity to help inform and shape the TAG's advice. Consultation is occurring with First Nations people; culturally and linguistically diverse communities; women and parents of girls; children and young people; families and carers; and people with disability. Clinical assessment and workforce perspectives are also being canvassed.

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