



Recognising NDIS worker screening: for aged providers that **are not** registered NDIS providers

Aged care legislation has been changed to recognise [National Disability Insurance Scheme \(NDIS\) worker screening clearances](#). This will make it easier for aged care providers and workers (both staff and volunteers) that support NDIS participants.

What is changing and who is affected?

From 16 June 2021, an NDIS worker screening clearance will allow approved providers to satisfy the requirements for aged care staff and volunteers under the [Aged Care Act 1997](#) (Aged Care Act) for those supporting NDIS participants.

These changes help aged care providers that are also registered NDIS providers and their workers who are in [risk assessed roles](#). The changes may also affect aged care providers that are not registered NDIS providers if a new worker already holds an NDIS worker screening clearance.

Why are changes being made?

The Australian Government is streamlining the dual regulatory framework for aged care providers that support NDIS participants. The changes will reduce the regulatory burden on aged care providers while continuing to meet both their aged care and NDIS legislative requirements.

Recognising both clearances within aged care also means that consumer protections are not reduced, with current protections maintained.

What does this mean for Aged Care Providers?

These changes create an alternative pathway for approved providers to meet the requirements for staff and volunteers under the Aged Care Act if an aged care worker already has an NDIS worker screening clearance that is less than five years old.

As an aged care provider that is not a registered NDIS provider, you can accept:

- a police certificate, or
- evidence of an NDIS worker screening clearance obtained in the last five years, if a new staff member or volunteer already holds one (that is if they moved from a risk assessed role supporting NDIS participants).

If your new staff member or volunteer holds an existing NDIS worker screening clearance, they **must** give you a copy of their NDIS worker screening clearance from the NDIS Worker Screening Unit in the state or territory in which the clearance was issued. Table 1 outlines how you can verify the NDIS worker screening clearance.

Table 1. How to verify an NDIS worker screening clearance

Verification method	Verification requirements
New staff member or volunteer provides evidence of NDIS worker screening clearance that is less than five years old (For providers to be satisfied)	The clearance may be in one or more of the following forms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • email • letter • physical card The clearance will include the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the person's full name, • NDIS worker screening ID, and • issue date and/or expiry date¹
Contact the staff member or volunteer's previous employer that is a registered NDIS provider (Additional verification that can be undertaken if needed)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get consent from your staff member or volunteer to contact their previous employer that is a registered NDIS provider. 2. Contact the previous employer to confirm the staff member or volunteer's NDIS Worker Screening status at the time they were employed.

Your responsibility under aged care legislation is the same whether a worker has an NDIS worker screening clearance or a police certificate. This includes you being satisfied that the worker holds a legitimate clearance and maintaining a record of the clearance.

What is the context for the changes?

Since 1 December 2020², residential aged care providers supporting National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants operate under a dual regulatory framework (Aged Care Act and the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#)).

Under the NDIS³, aged care workers (staff and volunteers) engaged in a risk assessed role by an aged care provider that is also a registered NDIS provider must have a valid NDIS worker screening clearance. A police certificate does not meet this requirement.

[Transitional arrangements](#) were put in place for residential aged care providers who transitioned to the NDIS on 1 December 2020. This allowed workers in risk assessed roles to continue to use their valid police certificate issued before the 1 February 2021 commencement of the NDIS worker screening.

In some circumstances, those aged care workers were required to have both an NDIS worker screening clearance and a police certificate where they worked with both NDIS participants and aged care recipients in a residential aged care setting.

These changes will reduce the need to maintain two worker screening arrangements without reducing the protections for consumers.

More information on the new regulatory arrangements that commenced from 1 December 2020 is available at: www.ndiscommission.gov.au/providers/participants-residential-aged-care

¹ If the clearance is issued by the NSW Worker Screening Unit, the expiry date is only available on the worker's MyService NSW account. The worker must provide evidence of the expiry date.

² See the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Legislation Amendment (Transitioning Aged Care Providers) Rules 2020*

³ See the *National Disability Insurance Scheme (Practice Standards—Worker Screening) Rules 2018*

Where can I find more information?

If you have any questions about the NDIS Worker Screening Check, please contact the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission on:

- 1800 035 544 (freecall Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm in all states except NT 9am to 4:30pm)
- contactcentre@ndiscommission.gov.au

If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the Aged Care Act, please contact the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission on:

- 1800 951 822 (freecall Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm AEST)
- info@agedcarequality.gov.au

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