



Recognising NDIS worker screening: for aged providers that are 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?

The regulatory framework will be streamlined for aged care providers that are registered NDIS providers.

As an aged care provider that is also a registered NDIS provider, these changes create an alternative pathway for you to meet the requirements for staff and volunteers under the Aged Care Act. This applies if your worker needs an NDIS worker screening clearance for a risk assessed role, or already has an NDIS worker screening clearance that is current and less than five years old.

For aged care providers that became registered NDIS providers on 1 December 2020, you can accept the following for workers in risk assessed roles supporting NDIS participants:

- evidence of an NDIS worker screening clearance, or
- a police certificate, if it was issued before 1 February 2021 and is still current.

For all other workers, you should continue to ask for a police certificate unless they hold an existing NDIS worker screening clearance.

If you are unsure whether your workers are in a risk assessed role, and should get an NDIS worker screening clearance, please contact the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission.

What is the context for the changes?

Since 1 December 2020¹, 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 NDIS², 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

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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¹ See the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Legislation Amendment (Transitioning Aged Care Providers) Rules 2020*

² See the *National Disability Insurance Scheme (Practice Standards—Worker Screening) Rules 2018*