



Sister Sensory's NDIS Guide for Parents

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Hello from Narelle

Hi there, my name is Narelle, and I am a mother to twin boys, one of whom has Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) and Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD).

I spent many years working with children of all abilities as a Teacher's Aide, studying and passionately researching Childhood Disabilities, which led me to create the brand [Sister Sensory](#) four years ago. My fantastic team and I operate this Melbourne, Australia based online store, supplying sensory products and toys for children, adults and Medical Professionals covering a wide range of childhood conditions, including Autism, ADHD, Anxiety & SPD, and for general special needs and purposes.

I am passionate about helping other parents and carers find what they're looking for and, providing assistance during challenging times, brings me great joy and pleasure.

As the mother of a neuro-diverse child, I struggled to find information regarding resources I could access to support me in my journey parenting my sons, which is why my team and I have created this NDIS Guide for Parents.

There is plenty of support out there, you just need to know where to look.



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What is the NDIS?



The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a way of providing support to Australians with disabilities, their families and carers.

All Australians under the age of 65 with a permanent and significant disability are provided the reasonable and necessary supports they need to live an enjoyable life through the NDIS.

A permanent and significant disability is a disability likely to be lifelong and have substantial impact on your child's ability to complete everyday activities. This can be intellectual, physical, sensory, cognitive or psychosocial.

As an insurance scheme, the NDIS takes a lifetime approach, investing in people with disability early to improve their outcomes later in life. The NDIS gives all Australians peace of mind that, if their child or loved one is born with or acquires a permanent and significant disability, they will get the support they need.

The NDIS supports people with disability to build skills and capability so they can participate in the community and employment.

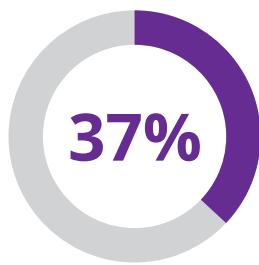
Let's get started.



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The Early Childhood Early Intervention approach – children under 7



of new participants of the NDIS in the last reported quarter were children aged 0-6 (total 8,206 children)



children receiving initial supports in the ECEI gateway, a 5% increase from last quarter



children with an approved plan

The Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) approach supports children aged under seven who have a developmental delay or disability, and their families/ carers.

The ECEI approach supports families to help children develop the skills they need to participate in daily activities and achieve the best possible outcomes throughout their life.

If you have any concerns about your child's development the ECEI may be able to help. [Find Early Childhood Partners](#). Every child is different, so your Early Childhood Partner will tailor support to your child's individual needs and circumstances.

They may also:

- Connect you and your child with appropriate supports in your area (community health centre, educational setting and playgroup)
- Provide some short-term early intervention where it has been identified as the most appropriate support
- Help you to request NDIS access if your child requires longer-term early childhood intervention supports.

If your child becomes an NDIS participant, the Early Childhood Partner will work with you to develop an NDIS plan. Find out more about how to [Get support for your child](#).

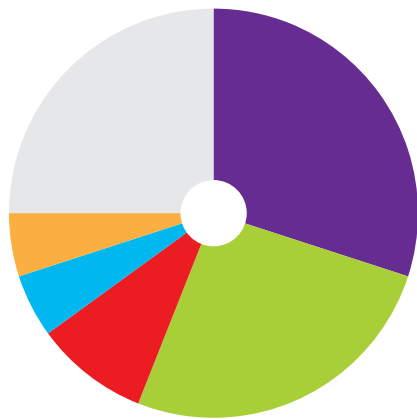
Who decides if you are eligible for support?

The NDIS in Australia is available for those who:

- Are aged between 7 and 65
- Live in Australia and have Australian residency
- Need support because of a permanent and significant disability
- Need special equipment because of a permanent and significant disability
- Need supports now to reduce future needs.

If you meet the criteria and you would like to become a participant, find out [how to apply for NDIS funding](#).

5 most common disabilities currently funded by the NDIS:



- 30% of participants have autism
- 26% of participants have an intellectual disability
- 9% of participants have a psychosocial disability
- 5% of participants have cerebral palsy
- 5% of participants have other neurological disabilities

*based on September 2020 quarterly report



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Reasonable and Necessary – you'll hear this often, but what does it mean?

If you're just starting your child's NDIS journey, you are likely to find yourself overwhelmed by an avalanche of information.

A phrase you'll read over and over is 'reasonable and necessary.' In simple terms, reasonable is something that is fair, and necessary is something someone needs because of their disability.

The NDIS funds 'reasonable and necessary supports' relating to disabilities to help people live a regular life and achieve their goals.



Plan for success

Once your child's application is accepted, you will be contacted by an NDI planner or Local Area Coordinator to arrange a meeting at a convenient time.

During this meeting they will discuss your child's goals and work through the unpaid, informal supports you receive from family, friends and your support crew (including support workers, support networks and the community). They will also ask about any professional services currently received and those you'd like your child to receive in future.

NDIS Planners use an evaluation matrix to determine whether a support request is:

- Related to disability and support needs
- Good value for money
- Likely to be effective
- Beneficial for your child.

Some examples of supports that may be approved include:

- Support workers to help with personal care
- Therapeutic supports like behaviour support
- Aids and equipment
- Home modifications
- Mobility equipment.

Your child's NDIS Plan won't cover:

- General everyday living expenses that people without disability are required to pay (train travel, rent, groceries, mobile phones or movie tickets).

Each person's disability is unique, so it's important you're prepared to demonstrate why a request for child should be deemed 'fair and reasonable'.



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NDIS Planning meeting checklist

Preparing for your child's planning meeting can be stressful. Follow this checklist to make sure you have everything covered. Before you confirm your meeting have you thought about:

- ✓ What type of meeting you would like? (face to face or over the phone)
- ✓ Where would you like to be for the meeting? (at your house, at your Local Area Coordinator's office or somewhere else)
- ✓ Do you have a preferred time for the meeting? (what fits in your schedule best – morning, afternoon or evening)
- ✓ Who would you like to be involved in the meeting? (family member, close friend, support person)
- ✓ Do you need communication or assistive aids for the meeting?
- ✓ Do you need a translator?

Documents to take to your meeting

Use the list below to make sure you have everything you need for your child's NDIS Planning meeting. You may not need all of this information or you may have other documents you'd also like to include.

- Assessments and reports (where relevant)
- Diagnosis from specialists
- Home modification assessment
- Medication charts
- Mental health reports
- Care needs assessments
- Occupational therapist and speech pathologist reports
- Neuropsychological assessments
- Incontinence assessments and management plans
- Physical condition/accessibility needs
- Current support plan from service provider/s listing all supports
- List of drop in (ad hoc) support services
- Quote from provider/s for supports or equipment that you'd like covered in your new NDIS Plan (not compulsory)
- A list of your child's unpaid/unfunded supports from family, friends and community groups.



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How Sister Sensory can help

Sister Sensory is Australia's number one choice for sensory toys and tools. We understand children with autism and other special needs require a unique range of options to interact with. As a registered NDIS provider, we stock a huge range of Australian autism sensory tools and offer a selection of fidget toys for those coping with ADHD and anxiety.

Our products are updated on a regular basis, staying at the forefront of developing trends, making sure your kids get to experience the latest and greatest products.

We're passionate about our sensory toys and we celebrate every time we see the delight on the face of a child discovering a new toy. And the best thing? Not only are our toys fun to play with, but they also offer therapeutic benefits. Our sensory therapy toys are designed to drive your child's imagination and creativity. These toys provide hours of enjoyment while serving an educational purpose.



About Sister Sensory

We believe all children should play and enjoy life to the full. Our toys are suitable for all children and encourage personal and physical development in a fun and entertaining way.

In addition to our standard sensory toys, we have a collection of sensory chew toys to help with your child's development. We also have deep pressure items to assist with balance and movement, helping your child's physical development. Many of the toys can be used together to enhance your child's overall experience, providing hours of entertainment and stimulation.

Our range includes:

- [Sensory solutions](#)
- [Sensory items](#)
- [Educational Products](#)
- [Sensory kits](#)

We update our products regularly as we source new and exciting sensory products. You can find out latest toys and tools on our [What's New](#) page.

Our conscientious team loves answering your questions and are always happy to make suggestions and offer advice. Our passion is matching toys to children so don't be afraid to get on contact. We know what toys suit different situations and are here to help.



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How to claim NDIS resources from Sister Sensory

Our Provider Registration Number is 4050021710 and we are approved for the following supports –

- Low Risk (Consumables) or Assistive Technology.
- Assistive Products Personal Care/Safety
- Assistive Products for Household Task
- Assistive Equipment for recreation – all other equipment
- Comms and Info Equipment
- Hearing Equipment

The way we process orders depends on how your NDIS Funds are Plan Managed. Please be aware that some requests for resources may not be able to be processed if an item is not specifically written into your plan and is not considered low risk / low cost (for example an item that is considered to have a complexity level higher than 1 or 2 such as a weighted blanket).

These items need to be assessed by the NDIA as part of your planning process and written into your plan if approved.

Make sure the information you have supplied is correct. If we don't receive the correct information, it will take longer to process your order. Please double check the NDIS number, your child's date of birth and how the plan is managed before submitting.

Find out more about claiming NDIS resources on our website.



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Connect with us

If you have any questions regarding the products we stock, or if there is a product you would like us to source, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We understand there are different ways you might want to talk to us or find out more information, so we have a range of options to suit your needs:

- Phone: [+61 401 689 313](tel:+61401689313)
- Email: info@sistersensory.com.au
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sistersensory>
- Instagram: [@sistersensory](https://www.instagram.com/sistersensory)
- Street address: Factory 4, 4 Brooke Court, Melton, VIC, 3337
- NDIS Provider Number: +61 405 007 816

We look forward to helping you and your child as you begin your NDIS journey.

