



THE PLANNING CONVERSATION

About the National Disability Insurance Scheme

NDIS AT A GLANCE

It all starts with a conversation.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is here to provide people with a disability or significant functional impairment access to reasonable and necessary supports they need to live the life they want and achieve their goals and aspirations.

Remember that your local MS organisation is here to help you identify your goals and the kinds of support you might need to achieve these.

Contact MS Connect for more information, by calling 1800 042 138, emailing msconnect@ms.org.au or visiting www.ms.org.au

THE PLANNING CONVERSATION

Transition arrangements for people in receipt of existing disability services may vary depending on your state or territory. From our experiences the best individual plans are achieved if you are well prepared for your planning conversation.

The planning conversation is depicted in the diagram below. The six steps are explained on page 2.



THE PLANNING CONVERSATION

THE SIX STEPS

1. Participant goals

This is a conversation that revolves around your goals and/or immediate unmet needs. It is a conversation where you can share the impact of multiple sclerosis on your day to day life, family, social life, work situation, living arrangements and health and wellbeing.

2. Planning

It's important for the Planner to understand you and your situation and circumstances, and to hear about the supports and services you may be receiving. They also talk to you about the risks or barriers that hinder your capacity to achieve the outcomes associated with your goals.

3. Budget

The reasonable and necessary support and services within your NDIS plan will have an allocated budget. Some supports will be fixed, such as equipment, while others allow flexibility. You can choose to manage the budget yourself or ask the NDIA or a Plan Management Provider to do this for you.

4. My NDIS Plan

Your plan is written up and agreed to.

5. Plan implementation

Now you have your plan. The next step is to choose service providers. You do not have to do this alone. The Planner will talk to you about support to help you activate your plan and implement services.

6. Outcomes and plan review

A review of your NDIS plan will occur at least once a year. You and your Planner will review goals and outcomes and identify the types of supports that achieved your desired outcomes. This will lead to your next plan.

FEEDBACK FROM PEOPLE LIVING WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

We have had lots of positive feedback from people living with multiple sclerosis who are recipients of an NDIS plan. Here are some examples:

- “Planner was brilliant — supportive and positive, asked the right questions about what I do now, what would make things better, and gave ideas for innovative supports — such as a hand rail on the caravan which allows much more confidence and independence when camping”
- “Positive, straight-forward experience. MS provided support prior and through planning and implementation.”
- “Agency helped me with completion of all paperwork and process, very easy.”
- “Significant input to transitioning home, has required a lot of liaison with NDIA with positive relationship building.”
- One person felt staff were responsive, good listeners, and they felt acknowledged. They did comment on the long delay (a few months) between the plan commencing and being implemented. Accessed MS info forums and checklist, which they found useful in planning. Would advise people to just be patient, “it is an enormous task to rollout the scheme”.