

# NDIS Pathway

## Hearing Stream 0-6 years

### What is the NDIS?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (also called the NDIS) is a new way of providing support for Australians with disability and developmental delay, their families and carers.

The NDIS can provide funding, information and support to help people with disability and developmental delay achieve their goals. Goals may include things like greater independence, community involvement, employment and improved wellbeing. 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 also provides people with disability and developmental delay, their family and carers with information and referrals to existing support services in the community.

### How can the NDIS help me and my child?

Your child's early years are very important as they set up how they'll learn and develop later in life. Support provided early will help you and give your child the best chance of achieving their potential.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has worked with a range of leading Australian early childhood intervention practitioners and researchers to design the NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) approach. This approach has been designed to identify the type and level of early intervention support your child needs to achieve their best outcome. Early intervention in the early years is critical to achieving the best outcomes for your child.

### Is my child eligible for the NDIS?

Your child will be eligible for the NDIS if:

- they are aged 0-6 years of age;
- they are an Australian citizen or hold a permanent visa or a Protected Special Category visa;
- they have confirmed audiological results consistent with auditory neuropathy or hearing loss greater than or equal to 25 decibels in either ear at 2 or more adjacent frequencies, which is likely to be permanent or long term; and
- the hearing loss of the person requires the use of personal amplification.

## How do I access the NDIS?

Australian Hearing can help you apply to access the NDIS at your first appointment. You can also do this at another time that suits you by calling 1800 800 110 or visiting a local NDIS ECEI partner office. The choice is yours. Applying during your first appointment with Australian Hearing will ensure you receive NDIS funding faster and will help your child receive their early intervention supports sooner.

## What happens next?

With your permission, Australian Hearing will forward evidence of your child's hearing loss to the NDIA and you will then receive written confirmation of your child's NDIS access within a few days.

Once your child has access they become a NDIS participant, and a specialist NDIS planner will contact you within two weeks to support you to develop your child's first NDIS plan. This plan will include a reasonable and necessary level of funding for early intervention supports. Once approved, you can use this funding straight away with the early intervention providers you choose.

At your first appointment, Australian Hearing will also tell you about the NDIS ECEI Partner in your local area. Your ECEI Partner will be your ongoing NDIS point of contact once you have a NDIS plan. If you have questions about your NDIS plan or other queries you can speak with them. Your ECEI Partner will contact you within four weeks of your plan being approved to see how things are going.

## Glossary

**Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI)** – providing support early in life to reduce the effects of disability and developmental delay to improve the person's functional capacity.

**Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) Partner** - Local organisations working in partnership with the NDIA, to help participants, their families and carers use the NDIS and other supports in the local community.

**Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Provider** – a business that provides specialised, evidence-based early intervention supports to help participants achieve the goals in their NDIS plan. Participants can choose their ECI providers and change ECI providers at any time. This is also known as choice and control.

**NDIA** – National Disability Insurance Agency. The Commonwealth government organisation administering the NDIS.

**NDIS** – National Disability Insurance Scheme. A new way of providing support for Australians with disability, their families and carers.

**NDIS Pathway** – a person with disability's experience with the NDIS from gaining access to using their NDIS plan.