

# Community and Stakeholder Update – 6 May 2026

Sent monthly, the Community and Stakeholder Update provides you with information about recent announcements and updates on key issues from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

This month's edition includes:

- NDIS reform
- what's new
- have your say
- disability sector news
- NDIS events
- new videos.

Information in this email can be shared with your members and networks through your communications channels.

# Contents

Latest Minister announcements	4
Securing the NDIS for future generations	4
NDIS reform	5
Design Hub	5
What we have tested	5
What we will test next	6
Get involved	6
Evaluation of NDIS support lists and funding periods	6
Tough new laws to protect the NDIS	6
What's new	7
Changes to improve the NDIS website	7
Fraud and Corruption Control Plan	7
Accredited Specialist Disability Accommodation assessor list updated	7
NDIS commits to stronger action on Closing the Gap for First Nations people with disability	8
Latest school leaver employment report now available	8
Key findings	8
Update to the NDIS participant newsletter	9
What's happening	9
Have your say	10
Help us test support needs assessments	10
Engagement reminders	10
Disability sector news	11
Project helps people with disability in Tasmania to live well	11
National Assistance Card to continue supporting people with disability across Tasmania	11
New members to continue to drive Australia's Disability Strategy forward	11
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission report	12
National Disability Data Asset Council: First Annual Report now available	12
People with disability appointed to advise the NDIS regulator	12

NDIS events	13
Understanding the NDIS webinar series: Funding periods	13
Session date:	13
Understanding the NDIS webinar series: Employment supports	13
Session date:	13
Understanding the NDIS webinar series: Working with providers	14
Session date:	14
New videos	14
Assistive technology presentation video	14
Changing an NDIS plan presentation video	15
Community and Stakeholder Update – April 2026	15
Contact us	15
Join our community	15
How to get involved with Participant First	16
Have your say with NDIS Engage	16
More information	16

# Latest Minister announcements

## Securing the NDIS for future generations

The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), gave a speech to the National Press Club on 22 April 2026.

You can [watch the speech online](#) or [read the transcript](#).

The Minister spoke about the NDIS as one of Australia's most important social programs and that it needs to be protected for people with permanent and significant disability.

As the NDIS is growing at a higher rate than expected and faster than similar programs, the long-term sustainability of the NDIS and its ability to support future generations, is at risk.

The Minister discussed the Australian Government's plan to secure the future of the NDIS through 4 pillars:

- fighting fraud and stopping rorts
- slowing rapid costs increases
- clearer eligibility requirements
- delivering quality services and support to participants.

The changes announced will not take effect until new legislation is introduced after the 2026-27 Budget.

It was also announced that, following consultation with people with disability and their families, carers and advocates, the rollout of new framework planning will be delayed until April 2027.

This will allow more time to listen to feedback, test proposed rules and processes, and share more detailed information about the transition.

In the meantime:

- current NDIS eligibility and planning policies remain in place
- participants should continue to access their disability related supports and services as outlined in their existing NDIS plans
- we will let participants know well in advance if anything affects them personally

- providers should continue to support participants in line with funding in existing approved plans.

Visit the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing website for:

- [information and resources](#)
- [the Q&A transcript](#) following the Minister's speech.

Visit the NDIS website for more about how [we're securing the NDIS for future generations](#).

These resources will continue to be updated as more information becomes available.

## NDIS reform

### Design Hub

We have set up a Design Hub for participants and staff to explore and improve the new way of planning before it rolls out.

The Design Hub:

- uses real-life scenarios, one-to-one simulations and group activities which feel real, but are designed for learning
- is a safe and respectful inclusive space for people to share feedback
- collects feedback in real time so changes can be made quickly
- is using feedback to refine tools, processes, systems and participant communications.

### What we have tested

So far, we have worked with 180 participants to test:

- the Support Needs Assessment experience
- the plan discussion
- communication materials
- participant and staff experience across the new pathway stages
- accessibility, clarity and usability of tools and resources
- staff training, scripts, guidance and processes.

## **What we will test next**

During 2026, the Design Hub will do more testing with participants and their families and carers. All Design Hub activities are simulations and do not affect real NDIS funding.

## **Get involved**

We are inviting NDIS participants to help us test parts of the new way of planning process.

To learn more and take part, [visit NDIS Engage](#).

## **Evaluation of NDIS support lists and funding periods**

We are evaluating the implementation of NDIS supports lists, total funding amounts, funding component amounts and funding periods.

This evaluation is part of our ongoing commitment to improving the NDIS through evidence and insights.

You can read the report [on the NDIS data and research website](#).

## **Tough new laws to protect the NDIS**

The Government's National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Integrity and Safeguarding) Bill 2025 will become law after it passed the Parliament on 1 April 2026.

It delivers new laws to protect people with a disability and safeguard the NDIS from exploitation.

Learn more about the new laws [on the NDIS website](#).

# What's new

## Changes to improve the NDIS website

We're improving the NDIS website to make it easier to use.

The updates are based on what participants told us they need. We developed the new information on the website and its structure based on nearly 700 hours of consultation with more than 300 participants and their supporters. Thanks to those of you that took part in this process.

From early May 2026, the participant and provider pages will change. You will find clearer menus and shorter pages with simple language.

All the information you need is still there. It just looks a little different.

The updates to the website will make it simpler and easier for people to get information about reform and changes to the NDIS.

There will be links and redirection from previous pages to help you navigate information.

You can share feedback using the website [feedback form](#).

## Fraud and Corruption Control Plan

In March, we published our latest [Fraud and Corruption Control Plan](#).

Regular updates to this plan are part of how we check the strength of our fraud and corruption control.

Read the latest plan and learn more [on the NDIS website](#).

## Accredited Specialist Disability Accommodation assessor list updated

Accredited Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) assessors are third party assessors engaged by an SDA developer, owner or provider to certify compliance of a dwelling with the SDA Design Standard.

We've recently updated the NDIS website with the latest details of accredited SDA assessors.

Visit the NDIS website to view the [accredited SDA assessor list](#).

## **NDIS commits to stronger action on Closing the Gap for First Nations people with disability**

We have released a [Statement of Commitment](#) to the Australian Government's [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#).

The Statement outlines how the NDIA will strengthen outcomes for First Nations people with disability, their families, carers and service delivery partners.

Read the full statement [on the NDIS website](#).

## **Latest school leaver employment report now available**

We are focused on improving employment outcomes for participants, especially young people transitioning from school to work. A key part of this is making sure participants get the right support to build work skills and find and keep a job.

The latest [Provider Quarterly Report – School Leaver Employment](#) is now available.

### **Key findings**

- Participation was highest in NSW (33%), Victoria (23%) and Queensland (18%).
- Almost half of training time (47%) focused on building core work-readiness skills.
- 614 participants moved into paid employment, mostly working up to 21 hours per week in areas such as retail, hospitality, trades and manufacturing.

Read the latest report [on the NDIS website](#).

Feedback on the report can be sent to [participant.employment@ndis.gov.au](mailto:participant.employment@ndis.gov.au).

## Update to the NDIS participant newsletter

We've updated the NDIS participant newsletter. It's now clearer and more accessible. These changes are based on participant feedback.

All participants and nominees who are not already subscribed will start getting the newsletter, unless they choose to unsubscribe.

The newsletter helps people better understand the NDIS. It's one of the main ways we share updates directly with participants and nominees. This includes information about the new way of planning.

The NDIS website is the main source of information about the NDIS.

### What's happening

- Participants and nominees who are not already subscribed to the NDIS participant newsletter will receive a welcome email.
- The welcome email explains:
  - what the newsletter is
  - how often it's sent
  - how to unsubscribe.
- After the welcome email, they will start getting the newsletter.
- If someone is already subscribed nothing will change.
- Getting the newsletter won't affect a participant's NDIS plan or supports.

To subscribe to the newsletter [visit the NDIS website](#).

# Have your say

## Help us test support needs assessments

We are inviting NDIS participants to help us test parts of the new NDIS planning process.

In this engagement, you will take part in the new NDIS Support Needs Assessment in a safe practice environment.

A simulation Support Needs Assessment interview is a structured conversation about your life and the supports you use.

Feedback from testing will help us:

- improve the design and usability of the assessment and planning tools
- make sure the new planning process is clear, fair, and works well for participants
- understand how the budget model might work
- find problems early and improve accuracy
- support better decision making for assessors.

### Important:

- You will not receive a personal plan or budget outcome from this activity.
- This will not affect your current NDIS plan or funding.
- Engagement activities will run from **April to June 2026**.
- Expressions of interest close **Sunday, 3 June 2026**.

To learn more and share your feedback, [visit NDIS Engage](#).

## Engagement reminders

- [Take part in testing the New Way of Planning](#) – opportunities open until **June 2026**.
- [Expressions of interest for provider consultations](#) – ongoing opportunities.
- [Shaping NDIS for First Nations children and young people](#) – expressions of interest close **30 June 2026**.
- [Help shape the future NDIS pathway for children and young people](#) – expressions of interest close **30 June 2026**.

## Disability sector news

### Project helps people with disability in Tasmania to live well

The Australian Government is providing funding to New Horizons Tasmania to deliver the Live Well project.

The project aims to improve the lives of those with disability, their families and carers.

Find out more about the project on the [Department of Health, Disability and Ageing website](#).

### National Assistance Card to continue supporting people with disability across Tasmania

The Australian Government is providing funding to the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania to support continued delivery of the National Assistance Card (the Card).

This helps people with disability, particularly young people, to express their needs and participate more fully in everyday life.

Find out more about the project on the [Department of Health, Disability and Ageing website](#).

### New members to continue to drive Australia's Disability Strategy forward

The Australian Government has announced 7 new appointments to Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031 Advisory Council.

The mix of disability and health professionals, policy experts, advocates, and community members brings a wealth of lived experience and knowledge to the Council. This is essential in making sure meaningful change is achieved.

The Council also offers input on priority policy areas, including education and learning, inclusive homes and communities, and safety, rights and justice.

Read the full statement on the [Department of Health, Disability and Ageing website](#).

## **Australian Competition and Consumer Commission report**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission have [reported](#) on several concerns and key issues about conduct by some businesses operating in NDIS markets.

Read more on the [Australian Competition and Consumer Commission website](#).

## **National Disability Data Asset Council: First Annual Report now available**

The National Disability Data Asset Council has released its first Annual Report to Disability Ministers.

It outlines progress from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

To learn more [visit the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing website](#).

## **People with disability appointed to advise the NDIS regulator**

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission have announced a refreshed Advisory Council comprised of disability advocates and reformers.

Advisory Council members include people with disability, or people who have lived experience of disability, selected through a national Expressions of Interest process.

To learn more [visit the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission website](#).

## NDIS events

Visit [Latest events](#) on the NDIS website to find upcoming events and information sessions.

### Understanding the NDIS webinar series: Funding periods

Funding periods make a participant's budget available in regular intervals. This can help with planning ahead and making sure funding lasts for the full length of an NDIS plan.

In this session we will talk about:

- what funding periods are and why they have been introduced
- how funding periods work in practice and what they mean for accessing funding
- how funding periods can help with budgeting and planning across a whole plan
- what's changing in NDIS plans and how longer plans are supported
- practical tips for managing supports within funding periods with confidence.

#### Session date:

- Tuesday, 5 May 2026

To register, visit our [Humanitix page](#).

### Understanding the NDIS webinar series: Employment supports

Employment supports through the NDIS can help participants build skills, find and keep work, and move toward their employment goals.

In this session we will talk about:

- what types of employment supports the NDIS can fund
- who employment supports are for and when they might be appropriate
- how employment supports can help with getting a job, staying in work, or developing workplace skills.

#### Session date:

- Wednesday, 13 May 2026

To register, visit our [Humanitix page](#).

## Understanding the NDIS webinar series: Working with providers

This session will explore how participants can work effectively with NDIS providers, from choosing the right supports to communicating expectations and managing changes so supports work the way they're intended to.

In this session we will talk about:

- how to find and choose NDIS providers that meet a participant's needs
- what a service agreement is and why it's important
- participants' rights and responsibilities when working with providers
- what to do if issues arise with a provider or supports.

### Session date:

- Tuesday, 21 May 2026

To register, visit our [Humanitix page](#).

## New videos

### Assistive technology presentation video

A video recording of our assistive technology presentation is [now available](#).

This video includes Auslan interpretation and captioning.

In this presentation we cover:

- what assistive technology is
- how it can support independence and safety
- examples of assistive technology
- how to access assistive technology through the NDIS.

## Changing an NDIS plan presentation video

A video recording of our changing an NDIS plan presentation is [now available](#).

This video includes Auslan interpretation and captioning.

In this presentation we cover:

- when and why, a participant might need to change their plan
- the difference between a plan variation and a plan reassessment
- how to request a plan change and what to expect during the process
- tips for making sure an NDIS plan continues to meet the participant's needs.

## Community and Stakeholder Update – April 2026

Our video of the [April Community and Stakeholder Update](#) is now available.

This video includes Auslan interpretation and captioning.

## Contact us

If you have any questions about the information in the update, want to make any suggestions about the sessions, would like to be or recommend a guest speaker, please email us at [community.engagement@ndis.gov.au](mailto:community.engagement@ndis.gov.au).

For general enquiries, please contact 1800 800 110 or email [enquiries@ndis.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@ndis.gov.au).

## Join our community

If you know other people who would like to be included in the Community and Stakeholder Update forums, please email a request to [community.engagement@ndis.gov.au](mailto:community.engagement@ndis.gov.au).

We will confirm the request and add them to our attendee list.

## How to get involved with Participant First

- We will keep listening to feedback and involving people with disability in how we improve the NDIS.
- Participants, their families and their carers can join **Participant First** to help improve the NDIS.
- Search 'Participant First' on the NDIS website for more information.

To join Participant First [visit the NDIS website](#).

## Have your say with NDIS Engage

NDIS Engage is an online platform where you can share your ideas, feedback, and experiences to help shape the future of the NDIS.

- Have your say on projects, consultations, and co-design activities that matter to you.
- Stay informed with direct updates about engagement opportunities.
- See what's happening across current NDIS engagement activities and previous updates, all in one place.

Visit us at [engage.ndis.gov.au](https://engage.ndis.gov.au).

## More information

Our website is regularly updated with information on:

- the [latest news and advice](#)
- [upcoming events](#)
- [newsletters](#) you can subscribe to
- [have your say](#) with the Participant Satisfaction Survey
- [Participant First: Help improve the NDIS](#).