

Ministerial Statement

Landmark legislation to reform the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) commenced on 3 October 2024, fulfilling the Australian Government's commitment to legislate important changes called for by the Independent Review of the NDIS and the disability community.

These changes to the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (NDIS Act) will improve the experience of NDIS participants and deliver decisions that are fairer, transparent and more consistent.

With this legislation in place, we can now get on with the important work of designing the finer, practical elements of NDIS reform with Australians with disability, including specific rules and instruments and the new definition of NDIS supports.

This will be done through close engagement and co-design with people with disability, and the states and territories in recognition of National Cabinet's acknowledgment of the need for reforms to secure the future of the NDIS, ensuring it can continue to provide life-changing support to future generations of Australians with a disability.

The legislative changes pave the way for a fairer, more consistent, and more sustainable Scheme that delivers for the Australians with disability it was always intended to support.

Again, I would like to thank the thousands of people with disability and the broader community who took part in the NDIS Review consultations to shape these changes and ensure we are taking well informed and person-centred steps forward with the Scheme.

Joint governance with states and territories

The Government recognises that the NDIS is a joint scheme between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.

The changes to the NDIS Act introduce a range of reforms that go to improving the experience of participants, and making sure that the planning and budget setting arrangements are sustainable.

I am working with the States and Territories to develop a forward plan for the development of the rules enabled under the amendments to the NDIS Act. These rules will be developed and discussed with states and territories over the next eight months with the aim that key reforms will commence from July 2025.

Consultation with the disability community

Engagement with the disability community on new rules, legislative instruments and transitional rules has already commenced and will continue throughout 2024 and 2025.

This includes co-design and engagement through the National Disability Insurance Agency's (NDIA) co-design groups, the Participant Reference Group, Disability Representative Community Organisations and the NDIS Independent Advisory Council.

Information about the NDIA's co-design engagement is available on its website:

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/community/making-ndis-stronger-together/co-designing-reform>

I have asked the Department of Social Services to work with disability representative organisations to schedule a forward workplan for consultation on the development of rules, building on the co-design work of the NDIA. It is important that the disability community is consulted and engaged ahead of the release of material for public consultation to ensure meaningful participation.

Information will be progressively updated on [DSS Engage](#) about the forward plan for engagement on each rule including the timing of design, consultation and engagement opportunities.