

Q. What can my schools NDIS Navigator help me with?

A. The Department of Education is committed to supporting children with disability and their families. That is why they are introducing National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Navigators in all Victorian government specialist schools.

NDIS Navigators can help you to:

- navigate and understand the NDIS
- apply for and access NDIS funded supports for your child
- understand activities like a plan reassessment.
- find out how to raise issues about your child's plan or with a provider.

Q. Am I eligible for the NDIS?

A. You must:

- live in Australia
- be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident, or hold a Protected Special Category Visa
- be under 65 years of age
- have an impairment or condition that is likely to be permanent (lifelong) and that stops you from doing everyday things for yourself, or be a child under 6 years of age with a developmental delay and the delay means the child usually needs more help with self-care, communication, learning or motor skills than another child of the same age.

Q. What is a Local Area Coordinator (LAC)?

A. LAC's work with you to build your plan and support you to identify your goals and aspirations. Planners submit all the information about the participants plan and goals to the NDIA for approval. LAC responsibilities include:

- working with you and your carers to identify options to achieve your goals by drawing on informal, mainstream and community supports as well as reasonable and necessary supports funded by the NDIS
- undertaking plan reviews. Your plan is usually an annual plan, however if your circumstances significantly change, you can request a review before this.

*LAC contact details for Barwon
Latrobe Community Health Service
1800 242 696

barwonLAC@ndis.gov.au

(You can find the name and contact details of your LAC on the front page of your NDIS Plan)

Q. what is Support Coordination?

A. Support coordination is available to assist those who have a plan but may need help understanding how to best navigate and coordinate the supports in your plan. The type of support coordination funded varies depending on the complexity of your needs and supports in your plan. A support coordinator must be a person or provider who is registered with the NDIA to provide this service. The support coordinator's role can include activities such as:

- support implementation of all supports in the plan, including informal, mainstream and community, as well as funded supports:
 - negotiate services to be provided and their prices, develop service agreements and create service bookings with preferred providers
 - negotiate services and prices as part of any quotable supports
- coordinate assessments, reports and service proposals
- strengthen and enhance your capacity to coordinate supports, self-direct and manage supports and participate in the community, including providing you with assistance to:
 - resolve problems or issues that arise
 - understand your responsibilities under service agreements
 - change or end a service agreement.

Q. Why do some students receive more NDIS funding compared to other students?

A. As the NDIS aims to give people with disability better access to personalised, high quality and innovative supports and services, the NDIS will pay for different supports for different people. The type of support you could receive depends on what your goals are and the areas of your life you need help with. Funded supports may include:

- help with household tasks and personal care
- vehicle and home modifications
- mobility equipment and assistive technology
- transport to be involved in community, social and employment activities
- therapies related to the disability
- Support coordination of NDIS supports

The NDIS funds **reasonable and necessary** supports that help you to reach your goals and aspirations and to undertake activities to enable social and economic participation. Your reasonable and necessary supports take into

account any informal supports already available to you (informal arrangements that are part of family life or natural connections with friends and community services) as well as other formal supports, such as health and education.

Q. Can I get information from the school to help with eligibility and access to the NDIS?

A. If you need additional information to support your child's NDIS access request, Nelson Park School can provide copies of any current and relevant plans and reports that have been prepared to support your child's learning and participation.

This may include: therapy reports, your child's personalised learning plan, individual curriculum plan or health management plan.

A Disability Support Summary, which provides a snapshot of the disability supports that your child accesses at school, is also available. This may be useful when you talk to an NDIS planner about the supports your child receives at school.

Contact Nelson Park School's NDIS Navigator, Emma McGinness for support Ph. 0410 036 923

Q. Will the school give information about my child to the NDIS or to NDIS providers?

A. School staff will not disclose personal information about a student without written consent from a parent or carer.

If you would like the school to share information with the NDIS or an NDIS provider you must provide written consent and specific details about what information is to be shared.

Q. Should I let my child's school know about my child's NDIS plan?

A. If your child receives an NDIS plan, you may wish to contact the school to share information about your child's plan so that strategies to support your child can be used consistently across learning environments, including home and school.

Q. Can my child younger than 9 years get support from the NDIS?

A. If your child is younger than 9 years and has disability, developmental delay or developmental concerns, they might be able to get support through the NDIS early childhood approach. As part of this approach an early childhood partner (Meli) connects your child with supports and services that can help your child develop skills for daily activities and get better outcomes in life. Meli will provide support to identify

if a child requires long-term specialised early childhood intervention supports and is likely to meet eligibility requirements and assist you to request access to the NDIS and submit the required information and evidence.

*Early Childhood Partner contact details for Barwon

Meli (BCYF and Bethany have merged to now become 'Meli')

03 5226 8900

info@meli.org.au

Q. Do you have any Tips to help parents with applying for the NDIS?

A. Life can be challenging for parents caring for a child or children with a disability. Many find that managing medical and allied health appointments, school / early childhood playdates, work and family commitments and the related emotional difficulties can be overwhelming. Nelson Park School's NDIS Navigator, Emma is here to help you if you are preparing an NDIS plan for the first time.

1. Familiarise yourself with the NDIS terminology- The NDIS has put together a helpful glossary of terms that are used within the scheme. It's best to familiarise yourself with these and use them when applying for NDIS funding and making plans.

2. Get support from trusted family and friends- Everyone has different strengths so look to those around you for support in the areas you don't feel confident with. If you find writing a challenge, ask a family member or friend to look over your NDIS application and provide feedback. If you find it difficult to understand the information in treatment or assessment reports required for evidence, ask your child's treating professional for support. Don't forget to prioritise looking after yourself. Make sure you have someone who you can go to for emotional support if you're feeling overwhelmed by the NDIS application process.

3. Plan ahead for your first planning meeting- If your child's NDIS application is approved, you will be contacted to arrange a planning meeting. Ahead of your NDIS planning meeting, have a think about your child's long-term goals for their physical and emotional development and how the NDIS funding could help you to achieve these goals. Familiarise yourself with the types of supports available for your child to access and the related costs. This will support you to advocate for the funding amount you need for your child's supports.

4. Consider your plan management options- There are three ways to manage your NDIS plan: self-managed, plan-managed or NDIA-managed. A self-managed plan provides you with choice and control over how and where you use your child's NDIS funding to help them achieve their goal and requires you to manage all invoices, payments and documentation. Many parents initially choose to have their child's plan managed by a Plan Management provider or the NDIA. You can change your preference at any time.

