# NDIS Updates and Reforms: What's Changing

A summary of major reforms currently underway

The NDIS is a large, evolving scheme, and its policies, procedures, and pricing arrangements are reviewed and updated regularly by the NDIA and the Australian Government. Since 2026, a significant reform package — known as *Securing the NDIS for Future Generations* — has been progressing through Parliament and into implementation. This guide summarises the key changes participants and families should be aware of.

## New Functional Capacity Assessments

From 1 January 2028, new applicants to the NDIS will be assessed using a new, standardised, evidence-based assessment of functional capacity, developed with input from a Technical Advisory Group. Existing participants will be progressively reassessed under this new framework over three years, rather than all at once.

## Changes to Permanence and Other Eligibility Rules

The reforms clarify the definition of 'permanent impairment' for NDIS purposes, generally requiring that no further treatment is likely to materially improve the impact of the impairment and that it is likely to be lifelong. From 2028, applicants will also need to disclose if they are eligible for, or accessing, support through a workers' compensation or motor vehicle accident scheme, which may affect their NDIS eligibility for the relevant impairment.

## Thriving Kids: A New Pathway for Young Children

A new foundational support program called **Thriving Kids** is being introduced for children aged 8 and under with developmental delay and/or autism who have low to moderate support needs. This program is being rolled out progressively from October 2026 through to full implementation by January 2028, and is intended to support these children and their families outside of the NDIS itself. Children with higher support needs, or permanent and significant disability, will remain eligible for the NDIS.

## Stronger Provider Registration and Safeguards

The reforms also expand mandatory registration requirements for providers delivering higher-risk supports — such as personal care, daily living supports, and services in closed settings — with all relevant providers required to be registered by December 2030. A new minimum enrolment system for identifying NDIS providers is also being introduced, alongside stronger civil penalties and investigation powers for the NDIA to address fraud and non-compliance.

## What This Means for Current Participants

If you're already an active NDIS participant, these changes will generally affect you gradually through your normal reassessment cycle rather than immediately. Core supports for critical care and daily living needs are intended to continue without disruption during this transition. Because these reforms

are still being finalised and rolled out in stages, it's worth checking the NDIS or Department of Health websites periodically, or speaking with your provider, for the most current information relevant to your circumstances.

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## How Fiora Healthcare Can Help

Keeping across NDIS developments is part of how we support participants well. Our team in Albany follows current reforms so we can help guide participants and families across the Great Southern region through any changes that may affect their plan or supports. This guide reflects information available as of late 2026 and reform details may change — always check ndis.gov.au for the latest updates.

Fiora Healthcare | Registered NDIS Provider | Albany & the Great Southern Region, WA
Phone: (+61) 0434 549 446 | Email: office@fiorahealthcare.com.au | www.fiorahealthcare.com.au