

What is the NDIS Worker Screening Check? (For general stakeholders)

About this fact sheet

This fact sheet for general stakeholders explains what the NDIS Worker Screening Check is and why it is important.

The NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework

In 2016, all Australian governments agreed to an [NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework](#) (Framework). The Framework provides a nationally consistent approach to help empower and support NDIS participants to exercise choice and control, while ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place. It also establishes expectations for providers and their staff to deliver high quality supports.

As part of the Framework, all states and territories committed to a nationally consistent worker screening process. The new NDIS Worker Screening Check forms part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguarding Framework.

What is the NDIS Worker Screening Check?

From 1 February 2021, the NDIS Worker Screening Check (Worker Screening Check) replaces the different arrangements operating in each state or territory, setting a minimum national standard that all workers engaged in risk assessed roles must meet. Some states and territories may still have additional requirements in some circumstances, e.g. people working with children may need to undertake additional screening. There are additional obligations or restrictions in relation to NDIS Worker Screening for providers in [Queensland](#).

The Worker Screening Check is an assessment of whether a person who works, or seeks to work, with people with disability poses a risk

to them. It will determine whether a person is cleared or excluded from working in certain roles with people with disability.

The Worker Screening Check will be conducted by the Worker Screening Unit (WSU) in the state or territory where a person applies. The WSU also decides whether a person is cleared or excluded.

Registered NDIS providers are required to engage only workers who have been cleared in any role that is a 'risk assessed role'.

Worker screening is only one of a range of strategies that operate together to reduce risk of harm to people with disability. NDIS providers must also implement additional policies, procedures and practices that assist in identifying and minimising risk of harm to people with disability. These include promoting positive organisational cultures that do not tolerate abuse, neglect or exploitation; ensuring quality recruitment, selection and screening; and maintaining a focus on education and training.

What will the Worker Screening Check do?

The Worker Screening Check will:

- be an important tool in the recruitment, selection and screening processes of NDIS providers, and assist in the ongoing review of the suitability of workers
- increase self-managed participants' choice and control by giving them the option to ask that the workers who provide them with supports and services obtain an NDIS Worker Screening clearance before engaging them

- allow workers with an NDIS Worker Screening clearance to work in risk assessed roles with registered NDIS providers in any state or territory across Australia
- assist in improving the quality and safety of NDIS supports to NDIS participants.

How long is the NDIS Worker Screening clearance valid?

Workers with an NDIS Worker Screening clearance are subject to ongoing monitoring against police and other relevant information.

This means their NDIS Worker Screening clearance status can be re-assessed if a WSU or the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) receives new or updated information that suggests they pose a risk to people with disability. If this happens, they may be excluded from having an NDIS Worker Screening clearance before their existing NDIS Worker Screening clearance expires.

NDIS Worker Screening clearances expire every five (5) years.

When will the Check start?

The Worker Screening Check will start on 1 February 2021, except in the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory will start the Check no later than 1 July 2021

More information

Legislation

- [NDIS \(Practice Standards - Worker Screening\) Rules 2018](#)
- [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#)

NDIS Commission website

- [Glossary](#) of terms used in this fact sheet.
- General information about [worker requirements](#).
- Information about the [NDIS Worker Screening Check for registered NDIS providers](#).
- [NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators](#)

Contact Us

Call: 1800 035 544 (free call from landlines).

Our contact centre is open 9.00am to 4:30pm in the NT, 9.00am to 5.00pm in the ACT, NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC and WA Monday to Friday excluding public holidays.

Email: contactcentre@ndiscommission.gov.au