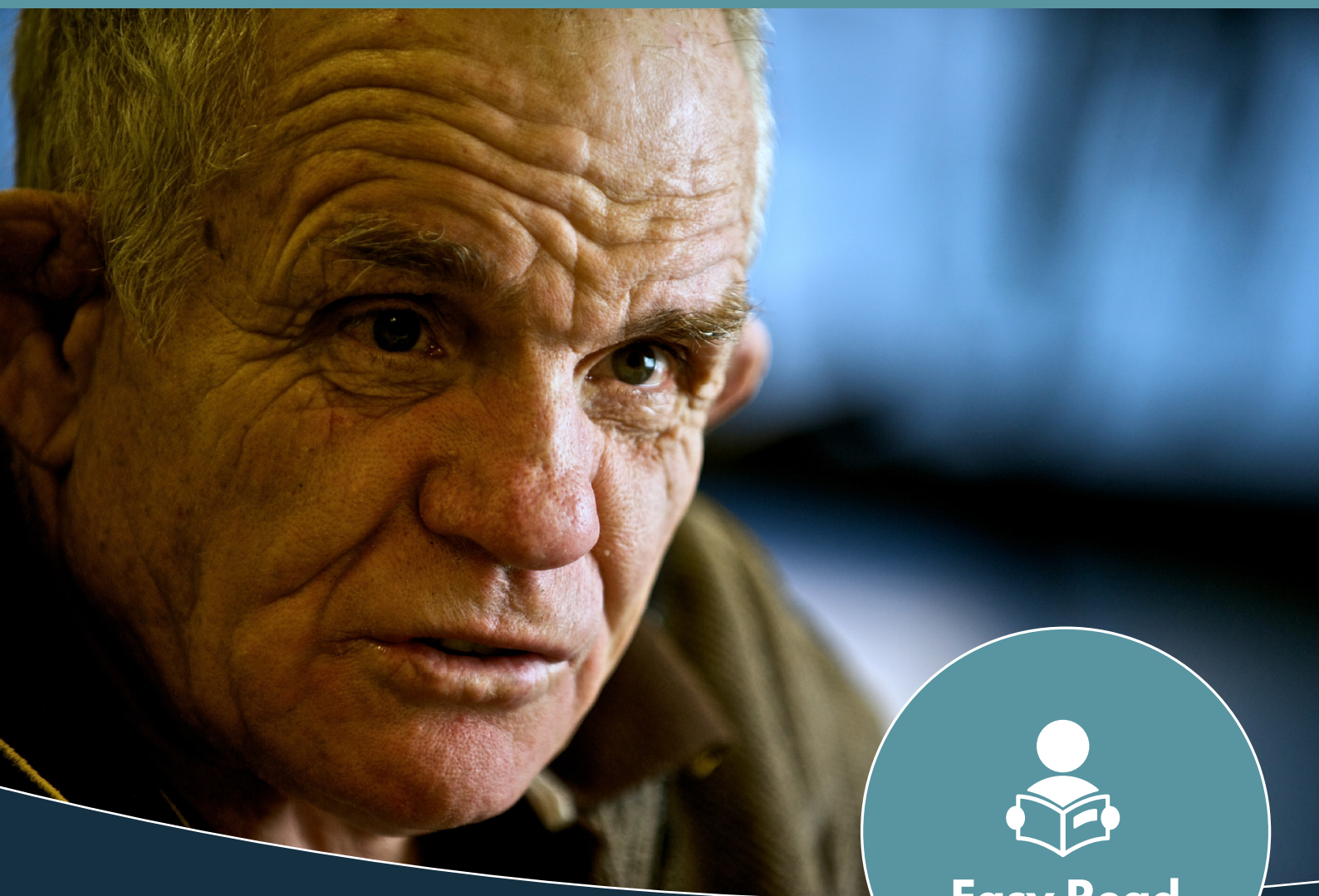


Our statement on NDIS independent assessments

Written by Disabled Peoples Organisations and
Disability Representative Organisations



Easy Read

March 2021

Our statement on NDIS independent assessments



This is our **statement** about the NDIS independent assessments.



A **statement** tells you what someone thinks about an issue.



This statement talks about independent assessments.



NDIS have said that are going to do independent assessments.



Many people with disability and their families are worried about this.

Disability organisations are worried.



This statement talks about all the things we are worried about.



It says what we want the NDIS and the government to do about it.

What are independent assessments



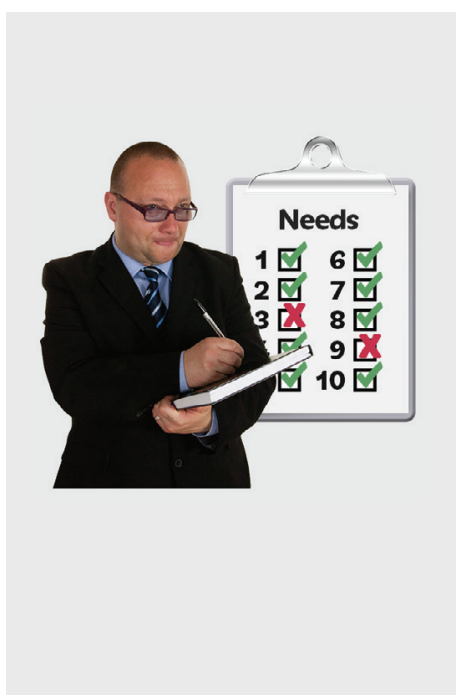
The Australian government wants to make a big change to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

NDIS for short.

The government did not ask people about this change.



The government wants people with disability to do independent assessments.



Independent assessments are like a test.

- There are lots of questions
- They try to measure what effect your disability has on your life
- They try to measure what you can do
- They also try to measure what you cannot do
- A person you don't know will do the assessment

Who must do an independent assessment



Everyone must do the independent assessment.

That means

- People who want to get on the NDIS
- People already on the NDIS



The independent assessments are **compulsory**.

Compulsory means that you cannot say no to the independent assessment.



The independent assessments are meant to help with

- Who gets on the NDIS
- The supports people get
- How much funding people get

What we are worried about



We are worried because the independent assessments will be a big change to the NDIS.



Many people are worried about the change.

They are

- People with disability
- Parents and carers
- Disability organisations



We worry that because of the independent assessment people with disability

- Get less money in their NDIS plan
- Will not get the support they need
- Might feel upset and stressed

We are worried about how independent assessments will be done



The person that does the independent assessment will not know the person with disability.



This is a problem because

- There is not a lot of time to get to know someone
- It takes time to understand someone's needs
- It might be difficult for the person with disability to open up to someone they do not know



We worry that people will not get the support they need after the assessment.



The person doing the independent assessment might not have the skills to work with people that

- Have a disability that you cannot see like an intellectual disability
- Do not speak
- Speak a different language
- Are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Are from the LGBTIQ community



You cannot make changes to the report you get after the independent assessment.



You can ask to skip the assessment

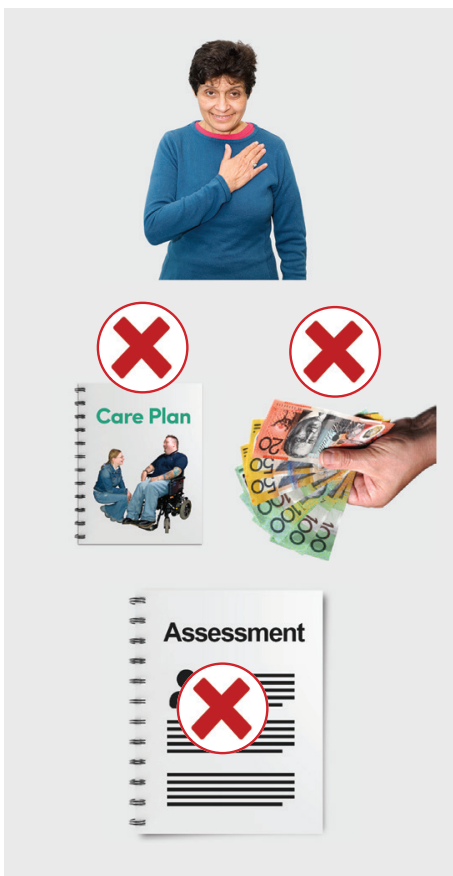
But the NDIS have not said who will be allowed to skip the assessment.

We do not think that is fair.

We are worried about how independent assessments might be used for plans and funding



Independent assessments will be used to say how much money people get in their NDIS plan.



This is a problem because

- Independent assessments are meant to find out how your disability affects your life.
- Independent assessments are **not** meant to find out how much support or funding you need.
- 1 independent assessment is not enough to say how much money a person gets.



NDIS needs to do better studies so people with disability get enough money in their plan.

We are worried about how independent assessments might change the way people get support



The person who does the independent assessment might not know about other services that could help the person with disability.



This means people with disability and their families could miss out on support they need.

What we want



We want to work with the NDIS and the government to make the NDIS better.



We do **not** think independent assessments are the way to make the NDIS better.



We want the government to

- Stop independent assessments
- Do an evaluation
- Let people with disability help
- Try other ideas
- Ask people with disability what they think
- Make sure people with disability get what they need

Stop independent assessments



We do not want the independent assessments the way they are now.

The independent assessments need to be better.

Do an evaluation



We want the government to do an evaluation.



Evaluation means to look into how independent assessments could work well.



People that do not work for the government must do the evaluation.



People with disability should be part of the evaluation.

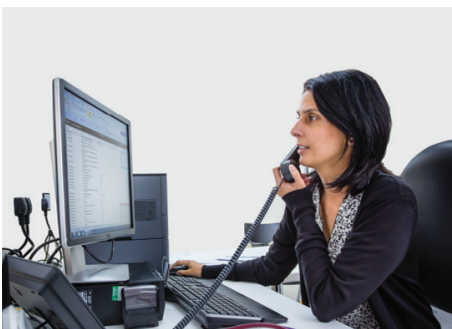


People with disability can help make it better.

Try other ideas



We want the government to try other ways for people to get help from NDIS.



This could be health professionals you already know do your assessment with you.

Look at what works for people with disability



We want the government to look at all the things that work well for people with disability.



Everything that works well should be used to make the NDIS better.



All changes to the NDIS should be made together with

- People with disability
- Parents and carers
- Disability organisations

Organisations signing this document

