



# Ability and Ambition

## Support Coordination Newsletter

May 2026



**Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter. Thanks for being here—we hope you find this edition useful and easy to follow.**

### Plan Changes

With the recent updates to the NDIS, we are finding that a lot of Participants are considering completing a Plan Change or Change of Circumstance to ensure that they have adequate supports into the future.

The NDIS have tightened their rules on what is and isn't considered a Change of Circumstance and this has made it increasingly difficult to complete this process.

There are two different Plan Changes within the NDIS.



A Plan Variation can be requested if there are minor changes to your plan such as:

- your goals
- the information about you, including your contact details
- your plan reassessment date
- the way your funds are managed
- varying your funding component amounts and funding periods
- providing funding for short-term supports when your situation changes suddenly.

A Plan change can be requested if you need bigger changes than a plan variation, or if your plan no longer meets your needs.

This can be done when:

- your situation changes
- the plan reassessment date in your plan is coming up
- there is a need to include a total funding amount, funding component amounts and funding periods in your plan for the first time, based on the updated laws for the NDIS.





# Ability and Ambition

## Support Coordination Newsletter

### Closing the Gap & STR Updates



### **NDIS commits to stronger action on Closing the Gap for First Nations people with disability.**

In March 2026, the NDIA released a statement outlining how the agency will strengthen outcomes for First Nations people with disability, their families, carers and service delivery partners.

The Statement supports change and equitable outcomes through the following commitments:

- Recognising and responding to how disability, race, gender and systemic social and cultural factors combine to affect health and wellbeing.
- Acknowledging the diversity of First Nations peoples and working locally to understand and respond to different needs.
- Regularly reflecting on the Agency's own practices and systems to improve equity and create a culturally safe, respectful and trauma-informed Agency.

### **STA/STR Reforms**

In October 2025 the NDIA released changes to the way Short Term Accommodation (STA) could be utilised, rebranding the line item to Short Term Respite (STR).

Whilst the change did not alter funding structures or overall access, it signalled a clear shift in intent - moving away from an "accommodation" focus and reframing the support to centre around providing respite to informal carers, enabling them to continue in their pivotal role.

Importantly, the reform tightened the interpretation of the funding use, clarifying STR is not to be used for holidays or 'tourism-style' experiences but rather standardised accommodation and disability-related care that reflects Participants usual support needs.





# Ability and Ambition

## Support Coordination Newsletter



### Changes to NDIS Rules

#### New NDIS rules

For most scheme stakeholders, there won't be big changes to the way you experience the NDIS right now.

A key change is the new definition of NDIS supports. This definition makes it clear what NDIS funding can and cannot cover and applies to all Participants.

Here is what you need to know:

- From now on, Participants can only use their NDIS funds for items listed as NDIS supports.
- There is now a list of supports that NDIS funding cannot cover, providing further clarity.
- There is a 'replacement rule' that allows Participant's to substitute a support that is not an NDIS support in specific cases.

Find out more about the new definition of [NDIS supports and the lists](#).

Other changes starting from 3 October 2026 include:

- New and reviewed plans will show total budget amounts, funding component amounts, and funding periods.
- The NDIA can change your plan management type if it is identified that a Participant or their representative may need help managing funds.

We appreciate you taking the time to engage with this update and welcome ongoing conversations, questions, and shared insights as we continue to navigate these changes together.

-Nikelah.

