

AFSA AGENDA OF NDIS ISSUES 2021-23

AFSA is the collective voice for autistic people with complex and high support needs and their parents, carers and families. We provide fellowship, peer support and information.

AFSA calls on the NDIA...

- #1...** To be operated in a way that ensures those with the most profound and severe disabilities and with complex and high support needs get the level of support and case management they need, as well their families and carers who are usually their nominees.
- #2...** To improve its understanding and management of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), particularly for those with complex needs. NDIS plans for participants with ASD should include funding for functional behaviour and communication assessments and the development of communication and behaviour support plans.
- #3...** To address the lack of appropriate services, including providers of last resort, and the shortage of trained and accredited practitioners and therapists with ASD experience. The NDIA must oversee service providers to ensure services are evidence based, best practice and supported by data.
- #4...** A draft of all NDIS plans and the opportunity for participant and nominee feedback must be provided to all participants and their nominees prior to signing off.
- #5...** To develop, in consultation with the states, a clear and accessible pathway to obtaining suitable permanent accommodation, including Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) for participants with complex needs.
- #6...** To enshrine the participant service guarantee in legislation to future proof this guarantee. Specific mandated service timeframes must be implemented for NDIS plans and other NDIA processes.
- #7...** To eliminate the bureaucratic and intimidating legal strategies used when participants and their nominees seek a review of NDIS decisions. Proper complaint and review processes for participants and their nominees must exist, including an option for independent reviews.
- #8...** To develop streamlined processes to enable participants and nominees to interact more seamlessly with the NDIA. Artificial barriers across governments and between funding agencies in health, education, housing and the NDIA must be broken to ensure appropriate and necessary participant centred support is provided.
- #9...** To reduce reliance on informal supports provided by families of those with complex needs and who will be NDIA clients for life. Providing greater support via case management, tailored transport funding, personal crisis support and adequate respite especially during health and disaster emergencies.
- #10...** To allow flexibility in the appropriate use of monies provided in packages. Participants, particularly those with complex needs, and their nominees must be able to choose appropriate therapists and services, especially given the limited pool of providers with ASD expertise. NDIS funding packages should cover the costs of multi-disciplinary services and adequate transport, tailored to individual needs.
- #11...** To achieve greater consistency of outcomes for participants with ASD.
- #12...** To give NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission real 'teeth' and sufficient resources to enforce proper standards of care and support, and to hold providers to account. Greater enforcement of standards and quality of service being delivered by providers must occur.