**Next Steps**

If you want to apply for the NDIS, or to check if you are eligible then you need to make an Access Request with the National Disability Insurance Agency.

How to apply for the NDIS - making an Access Request

You can make an Access Request by calling the NDIA on 1800 800 110. When you call them you can make the Access Request over the phone. If you don’t want to make the Access Request over the phone you can call and ask them to send you a form to fill out instead. You will need to give them your address if you want them to send you a form.

You will need to answer some questions to make the Access Request. You should have your answers to these questions ready before you make the phone call to the NDIA.

The NDIA will ask you:

* To confirm who you are, or that you have authority to act on someone else’s behalf;
* Questions to check that you are eligible for the NDIS. These questions will be similar to the ones you were asked in this questionnaire; and
* Questions about agreeing to enter the NDIS and about getting information from third parties.

Giving information/evidence about your Autism/impairment

\*\*Ask Gabby about evidence

You will need to give information about your Autism/impairment so that you can receive support from the NDIS. This might include how your Autism/impairment effects your day-to-day life. You can provide copies of existing information, including letters or reports, or you can ask your treating health professional to fill out and sign a form. You can also send in any other documents that will help show how your Autism/impairment affects you. This might include diary entries of problems that you, or the person you are applying for, had on certain days.

If you make your request over the phone you can give that information to the NDIA by:

* email: [NAT@ndis.gov.au](mailto:NAT@ndis.gov.au)
* Post to: GPO Box 700, Canberra ACT 2601, or
* drop it in to your nearest NDIS office.

If you already get disability supports for your Autism/impairment and you would like your provider to give the NDIA your information then you must agree to this.

Preparing for your NDIS planning meeting

\*\* Ask Gabby for more planner meeting tips

When the NDIA agree that you are eligible for support through the NDIS you will need to go to a planning meeting. In this planning meeting there will be an advocate who will talk to you about your disability. The advocate will ask you thing such as what tasks you find difficult and what tasks you do not find difficult. The advocate will then decide how much support you get from the NDIS.

It is important to be prepared for your planning meeting. Before the meeting you should think about how your Autism/impairment affects your life. You should prepare answers to this before the planning meeting.

In the meeting you must be honest about your Autism/impairment. Do not tell the advocate that you need help with something if you actually do not need help with it. Do not tell the advocate that you do not need help with someone if you actually do need help with it.

Your Autism/impairment might be better on some days and worse on other days. In your planning meeting you should describe what your Autism/impairment is like on your worst days. This will make sure that the funding you receive is sufficient to cater for your needs. If you describe what your Autism/impairment is like on your best days then you might not get as much funding because you have not correctly described how your Autism/impairment affects you.

After you have got your NDIS plan

\*\* Ask Gabby if she wants us to include this