

What we found out about the NDIS and family services

What we looked for

We wanted to find out how services know about parents with intellectual disability

Where we got the information

We looked at information you can get on the internet about the NDIS.

We looked at information you can get on the internet about a program that helps families in New South Wales. It is called 'Targeted Early Intervention'.

This is called a desk-top document review

We talked about what we found out at the Expert Advisory Group meetings

What we found out

The NDIS **does not** ask 'Are you a parent?'

Services who work with families **do** ask 'Are you a parent?'

The NDIS does help with needs you have as a parent, **but** it can be hard to use the NDIS without a skilled worker or an advocate.

Family services **sometimes** ask if you have a disability, **but** they do not explain how they will support you if you are a parent with intellectual disability.

What changes need to happen

The NDIS and family services should ask:

- Are you a parent?
- Do you have a disability?
- What do you need help with so you can be a good parent?

The NDIS and other services should say on their websites:

- If they give extra support for people with disability.
- How people with disability can get an independent advocate.

The NDIS should:

- Check if a participant is a parent (this is a person who gets NDIS funding)
- Ask about their role in their family.
- Ask parents with intellectual disability what they need help with.
- Not just ask what parents with a child with disability need help with.

Services who support families who need extra help should:

- Train their workers to work with people with intellectual disability.
- Communicate with the other services who support the same parent.