## Research project – the transition of young people with disability from education to employment

#### About us

The National Disability Research Partnership (NDRP) funds research that is:

* led by people with disability
* done with people with disability.

The research will create evidence to help shape policies that promote the rights of people with disability.

We are a not-for-profit charitable organisation.

An independent board leads our organisation. Our research committee oversees our research program. Our staff support the research activities.

For more information about our roles and responsibilities, visit our [website](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r04/___https://www.ndrp.org.au/research/research-policy___.Y3A0YTpuZHJwOmM6bzowZGZmYWRiMTFkYzU2NTNmYWZmMTYxMzYzODA1YTM0MTo3OjNkMjc6ZGQ0YmZlOWQ1YzJjODdhZmFlMWJmM2NhZDI3MWUyZjNiMWM1MDFhM2YwMGNiZGYzN2Q5YzMzZDZlYjI3ZTA5ZTpwOlQ6Tg).

#### About this grant

NDRP and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) are commissioning research. Commissioning means we fund organisations to do the research.

The research is about the transition of young people with disability from education to employment.

We worked with people with disability, disability organisations and researchers to develop the research questions for this project.

The Australian Government funded this project as part of Australia’s Disability Strategy 2021 to 2031.

#### Funding opportunities

The research will focus on NDIS participants aged 15 to 25 with employment supports in their plans.

There are 3 funding opportunities.

**Opportunity 1: NDIS employment assistance**

Use existing evidence and new research to understand employment transitions for young people with disability.

**Opportunity 2: NDIS employment assistance for First Nations people**

Use existing evidence and new research to understand employment transitions for young First Nations people with disability.

**Opportunity 3: NDIS employment assistance for people with complex support or communication needs**

Use existing evidence and new research to understand employment transitions for young people who may not use spoken communication. For example, people who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) or Auslan to communicate.

The aim of each project is to understand what makes employment transitions harder or easier for participants and providers.

The research will focus on NDIS participants aged 15 to 25 with employment supports in their plans. NDIS employment supports might be:

* employment assistance
* school leaver employment supports
* employment-related assessment, counselling and advice.

Opportunities 2 and 3 may also include people who would like to have these supports in their plans.

You can explore other factors that may impact people’s employment transitions. For example:

where people live (e.g. rural and remote locations)

school exclusion

the justice system

money

health and mental health support.

#### Grant amounts

**Opportunity 1: NDIS employment assistance**

One grant available (up to $190,000 excluding GST)

**Opportunity 2: NDIS employment assistance for First Nations people**

One grant available (up to $190,000 excluding GST)

**Opportunity 3: NDIS employment assistance for people with complex support or communication needs**

One grant available (up to $190,000 excluding GST)

The NDRP and DHDA will determine the final grant amounts awarded.

The total funds available for this project is $570,000 excluding GST.

#### Timeframes

The project will start in March 2026 and will be completed in one year.

#### Project deliverables

Research teams will complete a mid-project and final report, including:

* how they managed the project
* how they shared intellectual property (IP)
* how they shared decision-making

an appendix about the team’s experience and learnings.

**Recommendations**

At the end of the project, research teams will submit a report including their findings and recommendations.

The recommendations should cover the impact on different systems. For example, different levels of government policy.

Please note that we are not looking for recommendations about pilot programs or best-practice interventions.

#### Research teams

The research team includes people listed on the application and people who will be employed or involved in the research.

Research teams must include:

people with disability who know about the topic, issue or opportunity

people who have experience in policy, research and practice relevant to the topic

researchers with experience in inclusive disability research.

Teams must have the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver high-quality research outcomes.

**The administering organisation**

The research team must nominate an administering organisation that will:

submit the application

execute the funding agreement

set up clear agreements with partner organisations.

The team must also nominate a key contact person.

[Learn more about eligibility guidelines for administering organisations and partner organisations on our website](https://www.ndrp.org.au/research/commissioned-research-project-eligibility).

#### How we support research teams

We strengthen disability-led research by bringing people and organisations together.

Throughout the project, we will support research teams to connect and collaborate with other teams and organisations.

Each research team will address the same research questions, but with different considerations. The teams will share information and learn from each other to develop high-quality outcomes.

#### Working with the NDIA and DHDA

Representatives from the NDIA and DHDA will:

have a group meeting with all research teams to explain what works well and what could be improved

have regular group meetings with teams

help translate research findings into policy and practice.

The NDIA will also provide

* information about the NDIS Employment Assistance supports
* data about participants and providers in this space.

More information about how the NDIA supports researchers is available on the [NDIS website](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r04/___https://dataresearch.ndis.gov.au/research-and-evaluation/support-researchers___.Y3A0YTpuZHJwOmM6bzowZGZmYWRiMTFkYzU2NTNmYWZmMTYxMzYzODA1YTM0MTo3OmU5OWI6NzliNjJlYTZlODM2MzVmNTVjNGU3ZWU4NjdmNTU2YzA4ZTVlYTFjNWRhMjBiNjRhMTJhZDkwMTdmNzIxYTEzYjpwOlQ6Tg).

We will coordinate all contact between research teams and the NDIA or DHDA.

#### Who can apply for funding?

We only fund projects where people with disability lead the research activities.

Research teams must follow the [NDRP guiding principles](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r04/___https://www.ndrp.org.au/principles___.Y3A0YTpuZHJwOmM6bzowZGZmYWRiMTFkYzU2NTNmYWZmMTYxMzYzODA1YTM0MTo3OmRjOWI6MjM2NjdlYmJhMTRiOWQ5NTc0ZmIzMWE3ZjhkOWY2YWZlNDk0NmYwY2U3Yjc5N2IyY2FjMzRhZTczZDE0NjVhZjpwOlQ6Tg). You can show how you will do this in different ways. For example, tell us:

how you [co-design](https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r04/___https://www.ndrp.org.au/resources/co-design___.Y3A0YTpuZHJwOmM6bzowZGZmYWRiMTFkYzU2NTNmYWZmMTYxMzYzODA1YTM0MTo3OmYzMTI6YmZiNDQxM2I4ZDVhMzMxMjg0ODU4NTg5ODJlNWQ2YWQzMDM5ZTc4M2Y4ZGJlMWYwOWQzNDJhNDYxMjA1ZGM3YjpwOlQ6Tg) and co-produce a research proposal

how you [partner with disability organisations](https://www.ndrp.org.au/_files/ugd/2e5a3b_b83e9d08b3c448b7adfb310c69597c0e.docx?dn=NDRP%20Resource%20pack%2013%20Oct%202025%20V1.docx)

how you [value First Nations researchers and organisations](https://www.lowitja.org.au/tools/pathways-into-research-toolkit/) in your research

how you share power in leadership and decision making.

#### Who is not eligible for funding?

We will not give funding to:

government organisations or individuals employed in government roles

projects that have already received funding from other organisations

organisations based outside of Australia

people or organisations who have broken rules about research.

#### How we choose projects to fund and support

We will choose projects that are likely to have a large, positive impact on government policy.

The projects can be community-led or university-led.

We have 5 key assessment criteria, including:

* the research team’s capacity and capability to deliver the project (25% weighting)
* demonstration of inclusive governance, power sharing and engagement (15% weighting)
* project methods (25% weighting)
* how the proposal will generate policy and system changes (25% weighting)

value and risk (10%).

#### How to apply for funding

**Step 1** – Read this guideline.

**Step 2** – Plan your application with your project team and partners.

**Step 3** – Complete the [online application form.](https://ndrp.smartygrants.com.au/)

The form opens on **13 October 2025**.

Applications close on 21 October 2025 at 5:00 PM.