

NDIS Worker Screening in the NT

Who needs a NDIS Worker Screening Clearance?

You may need to apply for a Worker Screening Check and obtain an NDIS Worker Screening Clearance if you work for a registered NDIS provider in a **risk assessed role** and:

- your acceptable check is no longer valid (for example, it has expired) in the state or territory where you provide NDIS supports and services, or
- you do not hold an acceptable check or an NDIS Worker Screening clearance.

A risk assessed role is one that:

- involves the direct delivery of specified services and supports to people with disability; or
- is likely to have more than incidental contact with people with disability as a normal part of your duties. This includes physical contact; face-to-face contact; oral, written and electronic communication with people with disability in various circumstances; or
- is a key personnel role – for example, if you hold an executive, senior management or decision-making position of a registered NDIS provider including as a member of the board. The full definition of key personnel is in section 11A of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013.

Registered NDIS providers are responsible for identifying the risk assessed roles in their organisation. If you work for a registered NDIS provider, but not in a risk assessed role, you will not be required to hold an NDIS Worker Screening clearance. However, the registered NDIS provider that employs or otherwise engages you may choose to ask you to apply for a Worker Screening Check and obtain an NDIS Worker Screening clearance.

Unregistered NDIS providers and self-managed participants can choose to ask their workers to apply for a Worker Screening Check and obtain an NDIS Worker Screening clearance, but this is not mandatory.

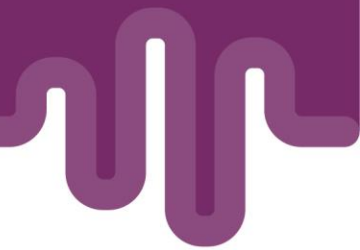
Volunteers

A person that volunteers doing NDIS work is able to apply for a concession volunteer fee.

The meaning of volunteer under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a person that volunteers their time to provide NDIS related support or services to people with a disability without payment, benefit or financial gain (excluding reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses).

To apply for the volunteer concession fee, you must get the organisation or NDIS participant that you volunteer for to complete the Volunteer Declaration Form confirming your volunteer arrangement. This form must be uploaded to your online application.





Work with children with a disability?

Once outside of the transitional arrangement (see below for more information), a person that works with children with a disability may require both a NDIS Worker Screening Clearance and a Working with Children Clearance (Ochre card). Your employer should be able to advise if this is applicable to you.

When will I be able to apply for a NDIS Worker Screening Check?

Screening Assessment for Employment Northern Territory, also known as SAFE NT, is the Worker Screening Unit responsible for managing NDIS Worker Screening in the NT. NDIS Worker Screening Checks will commence from 1 July 2021, however there are transitional arrangements in place so you may not need to apply immediately.

What are the transitional arrangements?

Transition to the NDIS Worker Screening Check will be a gradual process. A NDIS worker that has a current ochre card (Working with Children Check) may continue to work for a NDIS provider until that ochre card expires. The NDIS worker will then need to apply for a NDIS Worker Screening Check.

From 1 July 2021, there are two ways to have a clearance for the purpose of NDIS:

- If you have a current ochre card, you are considered to have a clearance until that ochre card expires.
- If you do not have an ochre card, or it is due to expire in 3 months, then you will need to apply for a NDIS Worker Screening Clearance.

The maximum period where an ochre card is deemed an acceptable check for NDIS is 30 June 2023. This is assuming a person received their ochre card on 30 June 2021, which has a 2 year validity period.

If you do not already have a valid ochre card, then from 1 July 2021 getting an ochre card is not an acceptable clearance for NDIS. You will need to apply for a NDIS Worker Screening Clearance.

Even if you have an ochre card as an acceptable clearance, your employer may still request that you apply for a NDIS Worker Screening Clearance.

Is there an exemption?

The only person not required to have a NDIS worker screening clearance is:

- a) A secondary school student on a formal work experience placement with the registered NDIS provider; and
- b) Directly supervised by a worker of the provider who has a clearance.

Is a NT clearance only valid in the NT?

No. The purpose of a nationally consistent worker screening framework is that it is portable across all jurisdictions of Australia. If you get a clearance in the NT, you can work in NDIS in other states or territories in Australia until that clearance expires. Likewise, if you have a valid NDIS clearance from another state or territory, you are able to work in the NDIS sector in the NT until that clearance expires.

