

# High Intensity Supports

## #4aBetterNDIS

### Why we need to be concerned about changes to High Intensity supports

High intensity supports were introduced to the NDIS in 2018 to help people with complex needs who need a lot of assistance with daily activities. This decision came after consulting health professionals, NDIS providers, participants, and unions.

High intensity supports in the NDIS cover two main areas: high physical needs and high behaviour needs.

1. For participants with **high physical needs**, these supports help people who require significant assistance with their physical health and daily activities. This includes managing feeding tubes, using ventilators, complex wound care, tracheostomy management, and urinary catheter management.
2. For participants with **high behaviour needs**, these supports are designed for individuals who need help managing challenging behaviours. This includes strategies to handle aggression or self-harm, and assistance with social skills and communication.

### What has changed with the new price guide in 2024?

The latest NDIS price guide has removed funding for participants who previously received high intensity behavioural supports overnight without notice, consultation, or announcement.

This change means that people with challenging behaviours, such as aggression or self-harm, will no longer receive specialised funding for the support they need. This decision has raised serious concerns among providers and advocates, who believe it will negatively impact the well-being and safety of participants with complex behavioural needs.

## Why we need to be concerned

- **Immediate Impact:** The new NDIS price guide has removed funding for high intensity behavioural supports without notice, affecting participants with challenging behaviours like aggression or self-harm.
- **Increased Risks:** Without specialised support, participants will face greater safety risks and a decline in well-being, making it harder for caregivers to manage these behaviours.
- **Unsafe Practices:** The lack of proper support may lead to the use of unsafe methods like physical restraints or seclusion, harming participants' quality of life.
- **Strained Resources:** As participants' needs become more severe, the demand for higher funding will increase, straining the NDIS budget and resources, potentially undermining the scheme's ability to support all participants effectively.

## What are we asking for?

The NDIA must equip providers with the necessary resources to effectively manage challenging behaviours, ensuring scheme participants thrive and reach their full potential.

### We ask that:

1. **The NDIA reinstate high intensity behavioural supports immediately** to empower participants with complex needs to continue to live safer and healthier lives. It makes no sense to remove these essential supports overnight with no consultation or warning.
2. The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission ensure safety, well-being, and human rights by preventing harm and neglect, and upholding equality within the NDIS by ensuring that the NDIA continues to appropriately fund supports for people with high intensity behavioural needs.

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