Getting good evidence for your NDIS supports

To get the supports you are asking for in your child’s NDIS plan, you will need to provide ‘good evidence’ from health professionals who are involved in your child’s life.

What is ‘good evidence’?
This is information about your child’s needs from health professionals who know and support your child. It can include:

A summary letter from your GP or paediatrician
This is a short letter stating your child’s diagnosis, the impact it has on your child’s life, and what support they need. It should also state that the disability is lifelong. The doctor needs to have known your child for more than six months to write a summary letter.

Reports from therapists
These reports focus on how the disability impacts your child’s capacity to do everyday things and include recommendations for support that will help them meet their goals.

Assessments from therapists
These assessments are done by people such as occupational therapists, speech therapists and psychologists. They assess how your child is going compared with children of the same age without disability. This can include checking your child’s motor skills, communication skills, hearing or vision, and how they understand information.

All the information you provide as evidence should be current and not more than two years old. Recent reports can also help with NDIS plan review meetings as they can show what supports were put in place and any progress your child has made.

Can I get help with the cost of assessments?
Some appointments with therapists for the assessment and diagnosis are covered by Medicare, but there may be out-of-pocket costs.

How can I make sure the reports are useful?
GPs, paediatricians and allied health workers are learning how to write reports in a way that supports NDIS planning.

You can direct therapists and doctors to the following resources that explain what they need to do:

- ‘GP and Allied Health Professional Guide to the NDIS’ at www.ndis.gov.au
- ‘10 Steps to Excellent NDIS Therapy Reports’ at www.valid.org.au
What if something needs changing?
Make sure you read all the information you have gathered as evidence before you give it to the NDIS. If you get the reports early enough, you can ask for corrections or changes, such as including a summary paragraph at the start of the document. Remember to keep copies of all information you give to the NDIS.

What do I need for an Early Childhood Early Intervention meeting?
The Early Childhood Early Intervention approach is different to the NDIS. If your child is under the age of 7, you do not need a formal diagnosis or assessments from therapists to get support.

What if I don’t have all the reports in time for the meeting?
It’s ok to ask for your planning meeting to be postponed if assessments and reports take longer than expected. It’s important for the NDIS to have all the information to get a clear and objective picture of your child’s needs.