NDIS PLAN EXAMPLE

NDIS Autism Level 2 Plan Example

A worked plan built from the official 2026-27 price limits, plus the evidence the NDIA actually asks for.

2026-27 RATES • EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2026 • VERIFIED

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Read this first

What this document is, and how the NDIA treats a Level 2 diagnosis

This is a worked example of what an NDIS plan for someone with a Level 2 autism diagnosis can look like, costed at the official 2026-27 national price limits.

> **IMPORTANT**
>
> **This is an example, not an entitlement.** There is no fixed dollar amount attached to a Level 2 diagnosis. Plans are built from your assessed needs and goals. Two people with the same diagnostic level can receive very different plans.

Is a Level 2 diagnosis enough for NDIS access?

It is strong evidence, and the NDIA treats it that way. Its guideline *Applying to the NDIS* (26 August 2026) puts autism on **List A**, its list of conditions likely to meet the disability requirements, when the autism is diagnosed by a specialist multidisciplinary team, paediatrician, psychiatrist or clinical psychologist experienced in assessing autism, and assessed using the current DSM-5 criteria as **Level 2 (requiring substantial support) or Level 3**.

If you give evidence of a List A condition, the NDIA says it will likely decide you meet the disability requirements. It is not automatic: you still need to meet the age and residence requirements, and the diagnosis needs to come from one of those professionals and state the severity level.

> **THE NDIS DISABILITY REQUIREMENTS**
>
> Your disability is caused by one or more **impairments** (the NDIA counts autism as a neurological impairment). The impairment is **likely to be permanent**. It **substantially reduces your ability to do everyday tasks**. It **affects your ability to work, study or take part in social life**. And you will **likely need NDIS supports for your lifetime**.

Autism that does not match the List A description, for example Level 1, sits on **List B**: the NDIA accepts the impairment is likely to be permanent, but still needs evidence of how it affects everyday life.

What the NDIA asks for, in preference order

#	Evidence	Applies to
1	DSM-5 diagnosis, including severity level for each domain	All ages
2	Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale (Vineland-III)	All ages
3	WHODAS 2.0	17 years and over
4	PEDI-CAT	16 years and under

The diagnosis comes first. The other three are functional measures: they show how autism affects everyday life, which is what the disability requirements test whenever the diagnosis alone does not settle it.

Evidence can come from any member of a multidisciplinary team: a paediatrician, psychologist, psychiatrist, occupational therapist or speech therapist.

The plan example

Primary-school-aged child, Level 2 diagnosis, moderate communication needs

Every rate below is the national price limit from the NDIS Pricing Schedule 2026-27. Every annual figure is calculated from that rate.

Support	Frequency	Rate	Annual
Speech pathology	Fortnightly, 26 hours	$193.99	$5,043.74
Occupational therapy	Fortnightly, 26 hours	$193.99	$5,043.74
Psychology	Monthly, 12 hours	$252.99	$3,035.88
Therapy assistant, level 2	Weekly, 40 hours	$86.79	$3,471.60
Individual social skills development	20 hours	$83.87	$1,677.40
Support worker, weekday	4 hours a week, 52 weeks	$73.58	$15,304.64
Illustrative total			**$33,577.00**

Three things drive that number more than the diagnosis does

$73.58 vs $133.50

Same support worker hour, weekday vs Sunday

$3,471.60 vs $7,759.60

40 hours from a therapy assistant vs an occupational therapist

1.4x & 1.5x

Remote and very remote price limits

A LINE ITEM WORTH KNOWING

A therapy assistant costs $86.79 per hour, roughly 45 per cent of a therapist's rate. They deliver the program your occupational therapist or speech pathologist designs, under supervision. Used well, that is the difference between fortnightly and weekly therapy contact on the same budget.

The qualified therapist stays responsible for assessment, program design and review. The weekly practice happens at a rate your plan can sustain.

2026-27 rates you will actually use

National price limits, effective 1 July 2026

Capacity building: therapy and skills

Support	Price limit	Common use at level 2
Speech pathology	$193.99/hr	Language, AAC devices, social communication
Occupational therapy	$193.99/hr	Sensory regulation, daily living skills, assessments
Psychology	$252.99/hr	Anxiety, emotional regulation, co-occurring needs
Specialist behavioural intervention	$252.99/hr	Assessment and design of a behaviour support plan
Therapy assistant, level 2	$86.79/hr	Delivers therapy programs under supervision
Therapy assistant, level 1	$56.16/hr	Program delivery under closer supervision
Individual social skills development	$83.87/hr	Structured social skills work

Core supports: day to day assistance

Support	Price limit	Notes
Support worker, weekday daytime	$73.58/hr	The standard weekday rate
Support worker, weekday evening	$81.07/hr	After hours community access
Support worker, Saturday	$103.54/hr	Weekend access costs noticeably more
Support worker, Sunday	$133.50/hr	Nearly double the weekday rate
Support worker, public holiday	$163.46/hr	Worth planning around

Support coordination

Level	Price limit	What it covers
Level 1: Support connection	$80.06/hr	Connecting you to supports
Level 2: Coordination of supports	$100.14/hr	Building your capacity to manage supports
Level 3: Specialist support coordination	$190.54/hr	Complex needs or high-level risks

NOTE

Support coordination is funded in your plan when the NDIA decides you need it. Level 3 is for participants with complex needs or high-level risks.

Thriving Kids and your application

The two dates that matter, and how to build a stronger case

Thriving Kids affects young autistic children. The two dates involved are separate, and they are 15 months apart.

Date	What happens
1 October 2026	Thriving Kids begins rolling out state services. **Nothing changes about NDIS eligibility on this date.**
1 January 2028	NDIS access changes commence, limited to children aged 8 and under with developmental delay and/or autism with **low to moderate** support needs.

Children with permanent and significant disability, including children with autism and high support needs, continue to be eligible for the NDIS. Children aged 8 and under who are on the NDIS before 1 January 2028 continue to be reassessed under the criteria in place before that date; once they turn 9, they are reassessed under the new criteria. The law that enables the access changes, the *NDIS Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Act 2026*, passed Parliament on 19 August 2026 and received Royal Assent on 20 August 2026.

Six ways to strengthen a Level 2 application

1. **Get the diagnosis in the right form.** From a paediatrician, psychiatrist, clinical psychologist or specialist multidisciplinary team, using DSM-5 criteria, with the severity level stated.
2. **Get the right instrument for the age.** WHODAS 2.0 for 17 and over, PEDI-CAT for 16 and under. The wrong one wastes an assessment.
3. **Describe a typical day, including the hard ones.** Reports that show support needs at home, at school and in the community give a fuller picture than a single appointment.
4. **Include both DSM-5 domains.** A person can be Level 2 in social communication and Level 3 in restricted or repetitive behaviours. Say so if that is the case.
5. **Cover all the daily activities.** The NDIA looks at communicating, socialising, learning, moving around, looking after yourself and managing your life.
6. **Use the multidisciplinary team.** The NDIA accepts autism evidence from any member of it: paediatrician, psychologist, psychiatrist, occupational therapist or speech therapist.

> **IF YOUR CHILD IS UNDER 9**
>
> The NDIA's **early childhood approach** is for children younger than 6 with developmental delay or younger than 9 with disability. You work with an early childhood partner, and **early connections** can provide supports even if your child is not eligible for the NDIS.

Check every figure yourself

The official sources, and how to search them

Price limits change at least once a year, and the NDIA has said the 2026-27 Pricing Schedule will be updated later in 2026. These are the sources every figure in this document was read from.

NDIS Pricing Schedule 2026-27

ndis.gov.au/providers/pricing-arrangements

Search by support item number, not by keyword. Item numbers are stable across years, and support names repeat across schedules. The ones used in this document:

Support item number	Support	2026-27
15_622_0128_1_3	Speech pathologist, direct service	$193.99
15_617_0128_1_3	Occupational therapist, direct service	$193.99
15_054_0128_1_3	Psychologist, direct service	$252.99
11_022_0110_7_3	Specialist behavioural intervention support	$252.99
15_053_0128_1_3	Therapy assistant, level 2	$86.79
15_052_0128_1_3	Therapy assistant, level 1	$56.16
11_024_0117_7_3	Individual social skills development	$83.87
01_011_0107_1_1	Assistance with self-care, weekday daytime	$73.58
01_013_0107_1_1	Assistance with self-care, Saturday	$103.54
01_014_0107_1_1	Assistance with self-care, Sunday	$133.50
01_012_0107_1_1	Assistance with self-care, public holiday	$163.46

Eligibility and evidence

ndis.gov.au, "What are the NDIS disability requirements" (current as of 2 September 2026) and "What are examples of disability evidence" (29 May 2026), which carries the preference order for autism evidence on page 2. List A and List B are in the NDIA guideline *Applying to the NDIS* (26 August 2026), under Our guidelines.

Thriving Kids

health.gov.au/our-work/thriving-kids and NDIA news "Thriving Kids" (5 February 2026), which carry the 1 October 2026 rollout date and the 1 January 2028 access-change date.

ONE PRACTICAL WARNING

Never work out a new rate by multiplying last year's rate by the annual increase. The schedule sets and rounds each item independently, so a calculated figure can be cents out. Always read the rate from the schedule itself.

Each NDIS page carries a "current as of" date at the bottom. If it is older than the last price update, check the pricing schedule as well.

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Centre of Hope is a registered NDIS provider in New South Wales. We also provide aged care support across Sydney.

- Support Coordination
- Level 3 Specialist Support Coordination
- Psychosocial Recovery Coaching
- Employment Coaching
- Justice and Re-Entry Support
- Personal Care
- Community Access
- In-Home Support
- Transport
- Supported Independent Living
- Community Nursing
- Positive Behaviour Support
- Early Childhood Intervention

WEBSITE

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REFERRALS

centreofhope.com.au/referral

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This document is general information only and does not replace personal advice; it is not legal, financial, clinical or plan-management advice. It is current as at 25 September 2026 and reflects the NDIS Pricing Schedule 2026-27 (effective 1 July 2026, national price limits, read by support item number), the Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits 2025-26 v1.1 for claiming rules, the NDIA guideline Applying to the NDIS (26 August 2026), the NDIA disability requirements and evidence pages, NDIA news on Thriving Kids (5 February 2026), and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing page on the Act (read 25 September 2026). The plan example is illustrative and is not an entitlement or a prediction of what any individual will be funded. Price limits and eligibility rules change; confirm current figures at ndis.gov.au before relying on them.