



## FACT SHEET 6

HOW DO I ACCESS ORTHOTIC/PROSTHETIC  
SERVICES WITHIN THE NDIS**Are you eligible for the NDIS?**

You can check to see if you are eligible to receive services through the NDIS here:

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-access-checklist>

The NDIS will be rolled out gradually from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, you can find out when the NDIS will be available in your local area here: <http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites>

**Signing up to participate**

If/when you are eligible, you will need to sign up to become a 'participant' of the NDIS.

This is something you need to do on your own or with the help of your family, friends, carers, disability organisations, advocates and/or peer support volunteers.

**I've signed up as a participant, what should I do next?**

You will be scheduled for a meeting with the NDIS to confirm:

- Your personal goals and aspirations;
- A plan for services to achieve your goals.

Before this meeting you should:

- Complete a "Getting Plan Ready" form which you can find here: <http://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/getting-plan-ready>
- Set goals and aspirations by thinking about:
  - What activities are most important to you?
  - What about life would you most like to change?
  - What would you like to do with less help from others?
  - Are there new activities you would like to try?

**Who might help me with setting my goals and plan?**

When setting goals it's a great time to talk to your orthotist/prosthetist if you can. They may be able to help you consider what activities might be possible that you haven't thought about and what you might need in order to do such activities.



You should also ask yourself, "Do I have any limitations/problems/frustrations with my current orthosis or prosthesis? And talk to your orthotist/prosthetist about this.

There are lots of other people that might be able to help you with this process:

- If you have an amputation you can contact Limbs4Life and access their peer support program;
- Disability organisations or advocates who offer peer support services relevant to your disability and who you like to engage with;
- Family members or anyone you trust who knows you well;
- Carers, if you have one.

**Planning meeting**

A meeting will be arranged with your NDIS Local Area Co-ordinator (LAC). You can take someone with you to your planning meeting to support you.

*What should I consider asking for when I see my Local Area Co-ordinator?*

- AOPA recommend that you ask for an **orthotic/prosthetic assessment** to be included in your plan. This means there will be time for you to get advice and information from your orthotist/prosthetist before treatment starts.

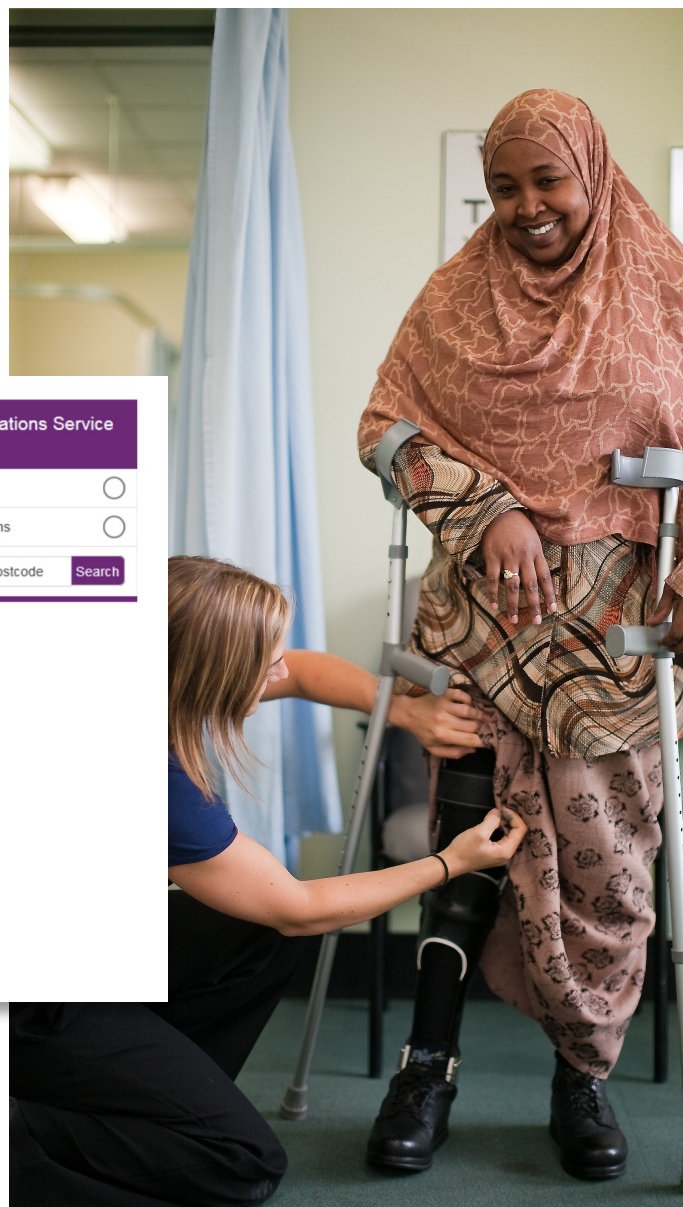


## How to find an orthotist/prosthetist

Once you have a plan in place you need to choose the orthotist/prosthetist you want to see for treatment.

You can search the NDIS website here: <http://www.ndis.gov.au/document/finding-and-engaging-providers/find-registered-service-providers>

The picture below shows what you will see on the NDIS website. You need to choose the 'Personal Mobility Equipment' category to find an orthotist/prosthetist.



Find Personal Assistance Support Services	Find Assistive Equipment and Technology Services	Find a Modifications Service Provider
Accommodation/Tenancy <input type="radio"/>	Assist Prod-Pers Care/Safety <input type="radio"/>	Home Modification <input type="radio"/>
Assess-Skill, Ability, Needs <input type="radio"/>	Assistive Equip-Recreation <input type="radio"/>	Vehicle modifications <input type="radio"/>
Assist Access/Maintain Employ <input type="radio"/>	Assistive Prod-Household Task <input type="radio"/>	Enter Suburb or Postcode <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>
Assist-Integrate School/Ed <input type="radio"/>	Comms & Info Equipment <input type="radio"/>	
Assist-Life Stage, Transition <input type="radio"/>	Hearing Equipment <input type="radio"/>	
Assist-Personal Activities <input type="radio"/>	Personal Mobility Equipment <input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Assist-Travel/Transport <input type="radio"/>	Vision Equipment <input type="radio"/>	
Behaviour Support <input type="radio"/>	Enter Suburb or Postcode <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>	
Community Nursing Care <input type="radio"/>		
Daily Tasks/Shared Living <input type="radio"/>		
Development-Life Skills <input type="radio"/>		
Early Childhood Supports <input type="radio"/>		
Equipment Special Assess Setup <input type="radio"/>		

You can also visit the Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association website to search a more extensive list of orthotist/prosthetists and to find a practitioner closest to you:

<http://www.aopa.org.au/findapractitioner>

## Your first appointment with an orthotist/prosthetist

You should tell your orthotist/prosthetist your goals and aspirations and outline the supports already identified in your plan. It would be helpful for them to see the plan, so you can share the information.

You can also consider giving your orthotist/prosthetist access to your information through the online NDIS portal.

You can read more about this and how to do it here:

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/sharing-your-ndis-plan-providers>

## Where can I get more information?

You can contact the Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association (AOPA) for information related to orthotist/prosthetists and their services.

Phone: 03 9816 4620

Email: [admin@aopa.org.au](mailto:admin@aopa.org.au)

Web: [www.aopa.org.au](http://www.aopa.org.au)

There is also lots of information available on the NDIS website at this link: <http://www.ndis.gov.au/people-disability/fact-sheets-and-publications>