

# Is the NDIS right for you?

Get in touch with  
your local Aboriginal  
health service.





# Shane's Story

My name is Shane, I'm 18 years old. I live in Donnybrook and was recently diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).



# Why I'm on the NDIS

## Shane Miller

When I lived in Perth I got caught up in the wrong crowd so I moved to the South West with my nan and brother.

I've only recently been diagnosed with FASD. This helped me understand why I struggle and need a bit of help.

The South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS) has been a huge help. They got me on an NDIS plan and since then, I have really begun to get my life back on track.

I'm now able to get therapy and they found me somewhere to live. SWAMS also helped me get on the disability pension and find a mentor.

# Shane got his confidence back

My mentor Matt helps me with my day-to-day tasks like shopping and learning how to be independent. We also get to hang out and do things in the community. He's given me the confidence to be able to do things on my own.

He's teaching me how to use the apps on my phone, like banking and MyGov, and he's set up reminders, so I don't miss any appointments.

It's already made a big difference in my life. With the extra support, I'm now able to visit my daughter twice a week.

I feel good with my life now, I know I've got people around me to help me when I need support and with their help, I know I can achieve my personal goals.



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## Joy and Geraimes' Story

Our family is from Wiluna in the Goldfields.  
Geraimes is my 23-year-old grandson and  
has a brain injury.



# Why I'm on the NDIS

**Geraimes Richards  
and his nan Joy Richards**

My grandson Geraimes has a disability caused by a brain injury. When he was a baby he was bitten by a mosquito carrying Murray Valley encephalitis. Since then, life has never been the same for us. Geraimes is non-verbal and struggles to take care of himself. His mother also has a disability, so I've cared for him.

For the majority of his life, we've been homeless going between Wiluna and Kalgoorlie at families' places, refuges, shelters, and hostels.

As I got older, my health was getting worse, and I was worried I couldn't care for him. While we were at Trilby Cooper Hostel in Kalgoorlie we asked Bega Garnbirringu Health Service for help to get Geraimes on the NDIS.

# Geraimes has his independence back

Being on the NDIS has changed our lives. It meant we got more support to find Geraimes a place to live. He now lives independently for the first time in a shared home for NDIS participants with 24/7 care.

He attends men's group fortnightly with Bega and gets out of town and reconnects with Country, cooking damper and kangaroo tails. We visit him weekly. He loves going for drives and visiting parks with his carers and family. He is happier and healthier, and we are all so proud of him.



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his  
connector

# Rachel's Story

My name is Rachel, I was born and bred in Roebourne and was recently diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).



# Why I'm on the NDIS

Rachel Samson

I am a 43-year-old mother of two and most of my childhood was spent living at the Weeriana Hostel.

Living with FASD has made it hard for me to get a job and be independent. When I came to the Mawarnkarra Health Service for help they got me on the NDIS.

I now work as a community connector for NDIS.

If it wasn't for funded NDIS programs like this one, I wouldn't have taken the leap into the workforce.

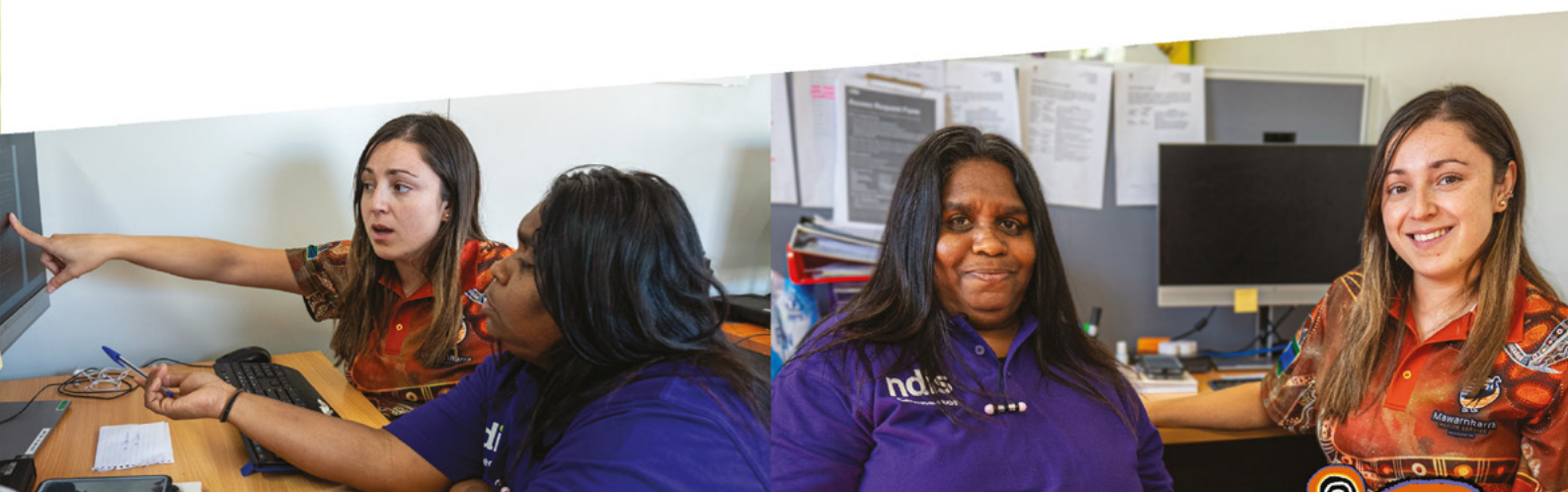
# Rachel has found her purpose

Being on an NDIS support program has changed my life. I now work at Mawarnkarra Health Service to assist others like me, who are on the NDIS.

It's been an unbelievable learning experience - like looking over a fence to see how the team works with participants.

It's also an opportunity to be able to reach out to others in my community, who are also on the program.

I was nervous at first, but I now feel so confident within myself and towards helping people with a disability who are like me. I really feel like I've found my purpose, to help others.



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**Aboriginal  
Health Council  
of Western Australia**