6 Great Reasons
to become an NDS Member

We know that membership is a financial investment and we’re honoured that more than 1,000 disability service providers around Australia entrust us to represent them. Our collective strength brings a unified voice to build a more inclusive future for people with disability.

NDS represents service providers across Australia in their work to deliver high-quality services for people with disability.

[www.nds.org.au](http://www.nds.org.au)

# 1. Advocacy and Influence

Members inform our work every step of the way. NDS has developed strong and productive relationships with governments, their departments and the sector for many years. We work hard to build these relationships and develop new ways to expand our policy influence.

**We are committed to**

* Fighting for prices that reflect realistic costs of service delivery and innovation.
* Building and supporting a disability workforce across Australia and ensuring sustainable employment for people with disability.
* Ensuring sustainable and meaningful employment for people with disability.
* Providing opportunities for members to develop local relationships with peers, NDS staff, governments and their agencies engaged with the sector, enabling the co-design of policy and contemporary practice.

# 2. Timely Information and Advice

Access to timely and easy-to-understand information and advice is critical with the current pace and complexity of challenges facing the disability sector. NDS is dedicated to providing insights and being your source of reliable information, critical thinking and analysis.

**Our services to members**

* NDS’s national helpdesk provides real-time responses to member questions about the NDIS and disability employment.
* Timely news and policy updates on state and national developments.
* Exclusive member-only webinars, podcasts and events tackle complex and relevant topics like the Royal Commission, COVID-19, the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework, analysis of the Federal and State/Territory budgets and more.
* The policy positions NDS advocate to governments are based on thorough consultation with members and supported by research and evidence. Members have opportunities to contribute to policy development.

# 3. Learn and Innovate

Your NDS membership gives you access to a community of specialist disability service providers.

Together we collaborate, innovate and open doors to new opportunities for professional networks and personal development.

Our services to members

* National, state and regional workshops, conferences and events to build knowledge, insight and competence.
* Access to ‘NDS Learn and Develop’ which supports for all levels of staff, training and professional development.
* Practical tools and resources to tackle workforce challenges through our Workforce Hub, carecareers and National Disability Practitioners.
* Opportunities to learn from peers and content experts via collaboration and special interest groups, events, workshops and forums.
* Access to subject matter experts and thought leaders from across Australia.

# 4. Collaborate and Improve

NDS members can shape strategy and sector policy as participants in NDS committees and communities of practice. Knowledge sharing and peer to peer engagement provides for individual and organisational development.

**Our services to members**

* NDS hosts sub-committees and communities of practice that provide collective insight into systemic issues. Discussions and action plans support participation to better understand, anticipate and respond to opportunities, challenges and emerging issues.
* Networking events to connect with government, other disability service providers and the broader sector.
* Informal insight and benchmarking of organisational performance to identify and respond to organisational gaps and opportunities.

# 5. A National and Local Perspective

NDS understands the importance of local networks and information and complements these with a national approach to ensure members have access to upcoming trends, analysis and learning opportunities and a strong, influential voice.

Our services to members

* Our state and territory teams bring strength and understanding of the context of operations in each jurisdiction.
* Support for all members – metropolitan, regional rural, remote and very remote.
* Proven and effective advocacy to state/territory governments on disability issues.
* NDS uses technology to reach all members, far and wide. Our virtual conferences and webinars ensure members can connect, regardless of location.

# 6. Business Supports and Services

We are committed to lowering the cost of doing business so you can free up financial resources for what matters most – delivering the best possible service for people with disability.

Our services to members

* Free access to practical services such as a legal helpline, a WHS advice line and crisis media support.
* Member-only discounts on a range of products and services such as the NDS Quality Portal and office products.
* Low cost and no cost learning and development for staff in a range of roles right across your organisation.

# NDS Membership team:

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“NDS is a trusted source of information. Membership keeps me informed and updated with the latest things that are happening.”

“I often advocate for others to join NDS for the support, available resources and up to date information available.”