Changes ahead!

Self Manager Hub

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01

SECTION

Big Proposed Changes and Timeline

Self Manager Hub

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What's proposed to change? (not law yet!)

- **Fewer people on the scheme**
  Government wants participant numbers down from ~760k now to ~600k by 2030, instead of projected increase to ~900k. (real drop of ~300k)
- **Community access budgets cut**
  Social, civic & community participation budgets cut by 50%; capacity-building daily activities by 10%. Phased over 12 months from 1 October 2026 as plans renew. And leg proposes to allow this for ANY Support Category or group across the scheme.
- **Mandatory registration for SIL/personal care**
  Required ONLY where supports are Managed AND Delivered by a provider. Self-managers' own workers/contractors NOT caught — except Restrictive Practices. (Chage to personal care are different and we don't have info yet!)
- **Plan management & support coordination cut & commissioned**
  ~30% less in the system. Plan management → government-approved panel (1 Oct 2027). Support coordination → no longer in your plan; government commissions providers directly (1 Jul 2028).
- **Unspent plan funds won't roll over**
  Use it or lose it. Mainly affects leftover funds when plans are extended – but may affect year by year in multi-year plans.
- **Unscheduled reassessments much harder to get**
  Only participant, nominee or guardian can request (not coordinators/plan managers). Two grounds: major ongoing change in functional capacity, OR unanticipated change in living/work supports.
- **Eligibility reassessed for existing participants**
  From 1 January 2028, current participants reassessed under new functional capacity rules — phased over 3 years. Test, threshold and appeals not public yet.
- **Diagnosis lists removed**
  Access based on functional capacity, not a list of conditions. Fairer in principle - devil will be in the assessment tool.
- **Growth rate of whole scheme below inflation**
  2% a year for the next 4 years, then 5% from 2030. In real terms that's a cut per participant unless numbers drop further.
- **Digital payments & more fraud controls**
  Every provider enrolled, every claim visible to the NDIA. This has been talked about for years - believe it when you see it.
- **$200m Inclusive Communities Fund**
  To rebuild capability in sporting clubs, arts groups & disability orgs to include participants. Direction is right; scale won't touch the sides.
- **Pricing decisions move to the Minister**
  Price caps no longer set by the NDIA Board. Consultation flagged on lower caps for unregistered providers.

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NDIS Proposed Reform Timeline

MAY – 30 JUN 2026	**"Securing the NDIS for Future Generations" Bill introduced, debated, and passed**
+7 DAYS ROYAL ASSENT	Tighter unscheduled plan reassessment rules kick in. 2% Growth cap in NDIS spending starts
1 JUL 2026	SIL & platform provider registration begins; digital payments work begins; SIL commissioning consultation opens
1 OCT 2026	**Social & community participation budget reductions start rolling out, as does Thriving Kids**
END 2026	Technical Advisory Group finalises functional capacity threshold
1 FEB 2027	Tighter reasonable-and-necessary assessments begin
1 APR 2027	New Framework Planning rolls out *(3rd scheduled start date)*
JUL 2027	**Expanded mandatory registration begins – Higher risk supports (eg: personal care & daily living supports)**
1 OCT 2027	New plan management model with 6-month transition
1 JAN 2028	**New eligibility rules for all new applicants; Thriving Kids fully national**
1 JUL 2028	New support coordination and connection function begins
END 2030	**Full registration & payments systems rollout. Target: ~$55bn scheme, 5% growth cap moving forward**

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02

SECTION

Your Questions (mostly) Answered

Self Manager Hub

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What does this mean for you?

Five big questions everyone's asking — let's take them in turn.

- **1. Self-management & registration**
  Will my workers still work for me?
- **2. Home & Living — SIL, SDA, Service for One**
  What changes in my home?
- **3. Cuts to Social & Community**
  How big, when, from where?
- **4. Functional Capacity Assessments**
  Will I (or my child) still be on the NDIS?
- **5. Timing & the long game**
  When does this actually settle?

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Self-management & registration

Most self-managers running their own teams will not need to become registered.

- **The Commission's test**
  HIGH supports + Managed by a provider + Delivered by a provider.
- **Sole traders & direct employees**
  Workers, not providers — not caught by mandatory registration.
- **The exception**
  Restrictive Practices — must register regardless (and there may be other exceptions).
- **1 July 2026 specifically**
  Only SIL & digital platform providers start to register. No supports stop.
- **Still to be locked in**
  The rules under new s 10C — track them as they're drafted.

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Home & Living — SIL, SDA & Service for One

- **SIL is moving to a "commissioning" model**
  Consultation begins second half of 2026.
- **1 July 2026 — SIL providers must register**
  Three-part test: Manage + Coordinate + Deliver.
- **SDA is protected**
  Specifically listed in the Government FAQ as not changing.
- **Service for One**
  Not mentioned specifically in the Bill, the EM or the FAQs — this is a gap.
- **No supports stop on 1 July**
  Transitional arrangements while providers register.

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Cuts to Social & Community Participation

50% off Social, Civic & Community
10% off Capacity-Building daily activities

- **Both Core AND Capacity Building hit**
  Not one or the other — both buckets.
- **Phased over 12 months from 1 October 2026**
  As old framework plans renew or are reassessed.
- **Some supports protected**
  In-home care, modifications, mobility, consumables, SDA.
- **No commitment to top up Home & Living/Reassessments harder**
  If you're 24/7 high-needs, the gap is real.
- **$200m Inclusive Communities Fund**
  Direction right. Scale won't touch the sides.

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Functional Capacity Assessments

"People with permanent and significant disability will still be able to access the NDIS."

- **New legal definition of "functional capacity"**
  Section 9B — but the tool isn't designed yet.
- **Technical Advisory Group**
  Starts mid-2026. Must include lived experience.
- **New criteria apply from 1 January 2028**
  For new applicants AND existing participants.
- **Existing participants reassessed**
  Progressively over 3 years.
- **Butler on automation**
  "Humans involved is absolutely central." Watch this carefully.
- **Who pays for the reports?**
  Butler: "I've got a pretty open mind about it."

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Timing — when does this settle?

Third NDIS Bill in two years. Settled state realistically 2030.

- **Bill is the structural shape**
  Operational detail in NDIS rules — drafted through 2026–2028.
- **Senate Inquiry submissions close 29 May 2026**
  Short window. Worth your voice.
- **Critical supports protected**
  Self-management preserved as a legal status.
- **Unscheduled reassessments locked down**
  Plan managers & coordinators can no longer trigger them.
- **Advocate on the RULES, not just the Bill**
  There will be more advocating needed all the way along.

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03

SECTION

Proposed Changes that really impact Self Managers

Self Manager Hub

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Self-managers: the good news

Where self-management stays useful!

- **Price caps still DO NOT apply to self-managed funding**
  Section 45C(2). You can still pay above the caps in the pricing arrangements.
- **Many of you are NOT an "NDIS provider"**
  Section 10C carves out amounts received "as a participant."
- **The Explanatory Memoradum puts this in for the first time**
  "Self-managed participants, as informed consumers, are empowered to make trade-offs within their NDIS budget."
- **Provider regime doesn't reach you**
  Registration, provider civil penalties, deed-of-arrangement — nope.

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Where you're more exposed

Because you make your own claims….

- **New 3 year record-keeping duty for participants, 5 years for nominees**
  Section 45B. Invoices, service agreements, support delivery records.
- **No records → potential debt**
  Section 182(4) can convert a legitimately-spent payment into a debt to the Agency.
- **90-day claim window from 1 Dec 2026**
  Was 2 years. CEO discretion for "exceptional circumstances" — not a right.
- **Agency information powers strengthened**
  Section 53/54 — new 60 penalty unit civil fine. Safeguards via Ministerial instrument.
- **Practical message**
  Keep records. Claim quickly. Get advice before responding to any Agency notice.

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Self-management – for Nominees

And a word for nominees.

- **Plan-size controls apply equally**
  Max funding amounts, intensity caps, ratios — s 33(2EA). Same numbers go in your plan.
- **The 50% / 10% S&C cuts hits ALL plans**
  Support determinations under s 34A have no carve-out for management type.
- **No rolled-over unspent funds at renewal**
  Plan renewals (s 50A) start again from original component amounts. Your buffer goes.
- **If you're a nominee managing a plan**
  New civil penalties — 30 to 60 penalty units — under ss 80, 83 and 84.
- **Nominee record-keeping — 5 years, not 3**
  Section 45B(7). Be ready to account for the money under s 84 statements.

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SECTION

Actions to take!

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What should you do now?

- **Make a Senate Inquiry submission**
  Submissions close 29 May 2026. Even one paragraph helps.
- **Update your evidence**
  Allied health reports, specialist letters, functional capacity.
- **Subscribe to the NDIA & DHDA newsletters**
  Rules get published as they're drafted.
- **Think about your plan end date now**
  The 50% cut applies at renewal — plan accordingly.
- **Document your arrangement now**
  ABN in your name, payment records, choice records — these matter.
- **Stay in touch with Self Manager Hub – join now!**
  We'll keep you updated as rules drop.

Lobby your State and Federal MPs/ Senators And MEDIA

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Questions?

Thank you for sticking with me.

Where this info came from

- Securing the NDIS for Future Generations Bill 2026 (House of Reps, 14 May 2026)
- Explanatory Memorandum — incl. new s 10C definition of "NDIS provider"
- Minister Butler's Second Reading Speech & press conference, 14 May 2026
- Participant & Provider FAQs (DHDA, May 2026)
- NDIS Amendment (Integrity and Safeguarding) Act 2026 (Royal Assent 8 April 2026)
- NDIS Commission, Self Management Advisory Group, 5 May 2026 (shared with permission)
- NDIS Commission written response on 1 July 2026, mid-May 2026 (shared with permission)

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