



ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

Some NDIS participants use assistance animals (most commonly dog guides) as a disability support. A study commissioned by the NDIA, completed in 2019, clarified the key terms for animals in disability assistance roles, and assesses the current evidence relating to NDIS participant-trained assistance dogs.

Before funding an assistance animal, the NDIA will consider whether an assistance animal is reasonable and necessary support that will meet your needs and help you pursue your goals. To consider if an assistance animal is a reasonable and necessary support, the NDIA requires evidence in writing with input from all of the following:

- a registered assistance animal provider
- allied health professional(s)
- the participant

Generally, the NDIA will only fund an assistance animal that has passed, or will pass, your state or territory's Public Access Test. This ensures that the animal is suitable to accompany and support you as you participate in the community.

Some companion animals are trained to provide assistance to people with a disability to help alleviate the effect of that disability. These assistance animals are not pets. They provide an important service that helps people to participate in personal and public life activities more fully with more confidence and independence.

It's not just canines that can help people with a disability, horses can also be an alternative to a guide dog.

This website provides information on laws for assistance animals under the Companion Animals Act 1998 in NSW only. Other Government agencies can provide you with advice about how assistance animals are treated under other laws.

To read more about who is eligible [click here](#) or view the [NDIS website](#)

