

PSYCHOSOCIAL DISABILITY & NDIS

Psychosocial Disability & NDIS

- Psychosocial disability describes a disability that arises from a mental health condition
- Not everyone who has a mental health condition will have a psychosocial disability
- People with a disability as a result of their mental health condition may qualify for the NDIS

Psychosocial Disability Challenges

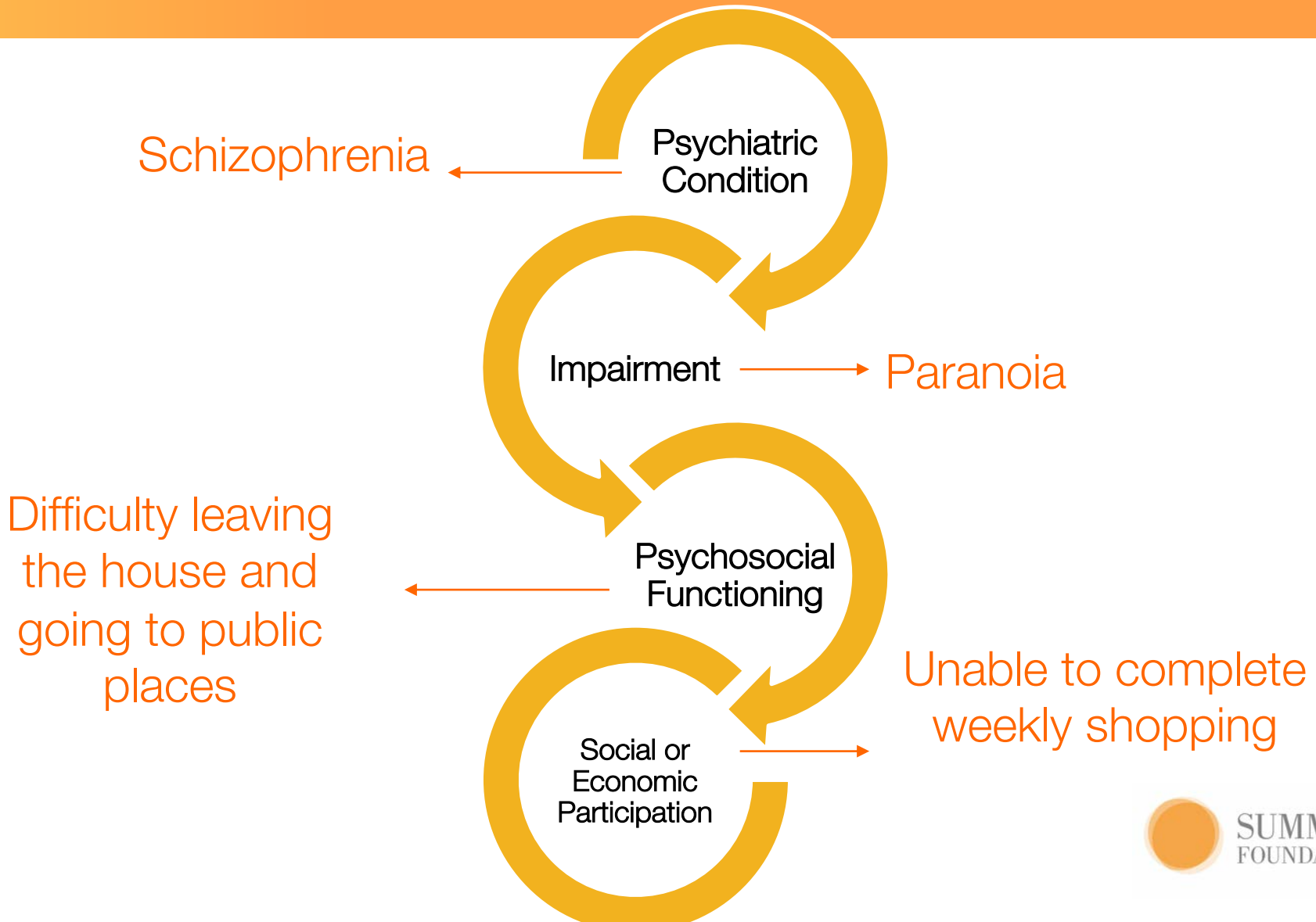
- Providing evidence for psychosocial disability
- Planners experience and knowledge
- Support needs fluctuate
- Support can be unwanted
- Housing options

NDIS Act and psychosocial disability

A person meets the disability requirements if:

- The person has a disability that is attributable to one or more...impairments attributable to a psychiatric condition; AND
- The impairment/s are, or are likely to be permanent; AND
- The impairments result in substantially reduced...psychosocial functioning in undertaking, one or more of the following activities: communication; social interaction; learning; mobility; self-care; self-management; AND;
- The impairment/s affect the person's capacity for social or economic participation; AND
- The person is likely to require support under the NDIS for the person's lifetime.

NDIS Act and completing the ARF



NDIA - Mental Health and NDIS

NDIA Website

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/understanding/how-ndis-works/mental-health-and-ndis>

- What is psychosocial disability?
- Accessing the NDIS
- New Evidence of Psychosocial Disability Form (Jan 20)
- What is recovery?
- What supports will the NDIS fund?
- Factsheets and resources

DHHS - Information on psychosocial disability

E-Learning modules and resources: <https://www.mhpod.gov.au/>

NDIS related training and resources (e.g. information and tools)

- Ways of Working with the NDIS: A practice resource for clinical mental health services
- NDIS information for mental health clinicians consisting of a range of practice advice, tip sheets and tools to assist clinicians to support participants across the NDIS pathway
- NDIS Implementation Guide to assist health services to establish an effective operational interface with the NDIS

Internal - Victorian NDIS Mental Health Program Lead

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External - Information on psychosocial disability

[Reimagine](#): Mental Health and the NDIS

[Tandem](#): Mental Health & the NDIS

(NDIS consultant available)

[VMIAC](#): NDIS – Support appeals and reviews

[Embark](#): NDIA & Health Funded Resources for
Psychosocial Disability

Resources - evidence of psychosocial disability

Aftercare Australia

- National NGO mental health service
- Research and relationships across government and social services
- NDIS registered - services and resources specifically to psychosocial disability
- [Completing the NDIS process for your patients](#) video
- [Providing Evidence of Psychological Disability](#) resource

PROVIDING EVIDENCE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DISABILITY

AREA OF NEED	DESCRIPTION OF AREA OF NEED	FACTORS OF ILLNESS THAT CREATE DIFFICULTY	FUNCTIONAL IMPLICATIONS	PHYSICAL HEALTH IMPLICATIONS	TYPE OF SUPPORT NEEDED	FREQUENCY OF SUPPORT NEEDED	EXAMPLE OBSERVATIONS
Social Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making & keeping friends and relationships - Behaving within limits accepted by others - Coping with feelings & emotions - Having a sense of purpose in life - Making connections in the community - Volunteering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PTSD A - Anxiety - Paranoia - Hallucination - Derealisation - Aggression - Obsessions - Poverty of thought - Depression - Elevated mood - Stability of mood - Social cognitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social isolation and withdrawal - Difficulty with: responding to social situations - Making & keeping friends - Talking to strangers or certain people - Interaction affected by behaviours - Fear or distrust of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential lack of acceptance in waiting room - Potential disturbance to other patients - Uncomfortable waiting for appointments 	Person to accompany when attending social activities, at least for a period of time	<p>Attendance at social activities (2hrs/2nd wk)</p> <p>May require graded support for new social situations</p>	<p>X has become socially isolated since being diagnosed with depression. X rarely ventures into the community alone & prefers to spend time at home. X feels very anxious when meeting new people which further adds to his social isolation.</p> <p>X speaks very quickly due to mania, and at other times she is unable to speak due to feeling depressed. This means it is very difficult for X to interact socially and maintain friendships. X often has feelings & emotions she is unable to cope with due to her mental illness.</p>
Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding - Remembering - Learning new information - Concentrating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cognitive difficulties - Alertness - Memory - Orientation - Concentration - Learning - Planning - Compulsions - Hallucinations - Derealisation 	<p>Difficulty with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organising tasks - Learning new info - Following instructions - Understanding directions - Making decisions - Solving problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remembering medication, administration - Completing forms eg. screening tests - Making good health choices, self-care 	<p>Equipment that assists with recording and organising (e.g. tablet device).</p> <p>Person to assist with learning & engaging in particular activities</p>	<p>Support + training for device use (10hrs over a number of weeks)</p> <p>Assistance with study/rec activities (1hr/wk). Total 6hrs/mth + equipment cost</p>	<p>At times X finds it difficult to concentrate on information within paperwork. Due to her mental illness she can experience flatness and manic and can have difficulty concentrating, understanding and remembering new things.</p>
Self Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doing activities (e.g. cooking, laundry) - Handling & solving problems - Managing money - Budgeting - Making decisions - Keeping safe in-home environment - Taking responsibility - Behaving responsibly - Connecting to services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motivation - Cognitive - Difficulties - Issues related to self awareness - Compulsion - Depression - Pre-occupations - Hallucinations - Anxiety - Tangential thinking - Paranoia 	<p>Difficulty with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attending to responsibilities due to; lack of motivation, interest, concentration & organisation - Managing household - Budgeting - Solving problems - Making decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scheduling appointments - Connecting to services - Financing health appointments and medication - Management of paperwork 	<p>Person to supervise, support with care of house, managing money, getting services, etc.</p>	<p>Assist with minimum 1 meal/day and other home based responsibilities.</p> <p>Assist with shopping and appointments (3hrs/wk)</p> <p>Total 17 hrs/wk</p>	<p>At times X has difficulty completing daily chores due to lack of motivation associated with a depressive episode. During depressive and manic episodes X has difficulty making decisions.</p> <p>When symptoms of mania are heightened X reports buying unnecessary items, making impulsive decisions, starting too many projects and rearranging her furniture.</p> <p>When symptoms of depression are heightened, X is unable to make decisions and has no motivation to complete.</p>

Summary

Psychosocial disability can be a primary OR secondary disability - relevant for all health staff to understand

- Apply NDIS principles of 'Functional Impairment' and 'Social and Community Participation' to determine if participant meets eligibility
- Know what NDIS supports and resources are available in your local health service and community
- Refer to support coordinators and allied health teams that specifically work within mental health