
Two systems, *one line*.

The two domain systems in NDIS behaviour support, what each is for, and how the strongest plans connect them all the way to funding.

For new behaviour support practitioners

Use freely, and share it with anyone who'd find it useful

Covers Commission risk domains and NDIA functional impact domains

— START HERE

Two different jobs, two different sets of domains. Confusing them is one of the most common early mistakes.

Behaviour support uses **two** domain systems, and they answer different questions. One is about *risk*, the other is about *functional impact*. New practitioners often reach for the wrong one, or use only one when the strongest plans use both.

This handout sets them side by side: the Commission's risk domains for the Risks of Harm section of a plan, and the NDIA's functional impact domains for justifying funding. Then it shows the move that separates an adequate plan from a strong one, connecting the two into a single, unbroken line of reasoning.

WHAT'S INSIDE

1 Commission risk domains	The nine domains you document in the Risks of Harm section of an Interim or Comprehensive BSP.
2 NDIA functional impact domains	The domains you link risk to when justifying support as reasonable and necessary.
3 The gold standard	How the best plans connect both into one line, from disability to funding.

Commission risk domains

USE IN THE RISKS OF HARM SECTION · INTERIM & COMPREHENSIVE BSPTS

These are the domains the NDIS Commission expects you to consider and document. Work through all nine, even the ones that don't apply, so it's clear you've checked.

RISK DOMAIN	WHAT IT COVERS
1 Harm to self	Self injury, self neglect, suicide risk, unsafe behaviours causing injury.
2 Harm to others	Physical aggression, threats, property destruction that creates risk to others.
3 Harm from others	Vulnerability to abuse, exploitation, bullying, coercion, victimisation.
4 Risk to health	Medication issues, eating concerns, swallowing risks, sleep issues, medical complications.
5 Risk to development	Behaviour impacting learning, skill acquisition, independence, developmental progress.
6 Risk to dignity or human rights	Stigma, discrimination, unnecessary restrictions, privacy concerns, loss of autonomy.
7 Risk to placement or supports	Placement breakdown, staff withdrawal, service disengagement, support instability.
8 Risk to participation or service access	Exclusion from school, employment, transport, recreation, community activities.
9 Other	Cultural harm, re-traumatisation, family breakdown, legal involvement, any risk not captured above.

A QUIET STRENGTH

Naming a domain as low or no current risk still shows you considered it. Silence reads as an oversight; a considered "low" reads as thoroughness.

NDIA functional impact domains

USE WHEN JUSTIFYING FUNDING · REASONABLE AND NECESSARY, SECTION 34

When you justify behaviour support funding, you link risk and behaviour to functional impairment across these six areas.

Communication

- Understanding others
- Expressing needs
- Social communication

Social interaction

- Relationships
- Community engagement
- Social participation

Learning

- Skill development
- Following instructions
- Problem solving

Mobility

- Moving safely
- Accessing environments

Self-care

- Hygiene
- Eating
- Medication management

Self-management

- Emotional regulation
- Decision making
- Planning and organisation
- Safety awareness

THE DISTINCTION TO HOLD

Risk domains describe what could go wrong. Functional domains describe what the person cannot yet do without support. Funding follows the second, evidenced by the first.

The gold standard

The strongest plans don't pick one system. They connect both, so a reviewer can follow a single unbroken line from disability to funding.

A WORKED EXAMPLE

RISK DOMAIN	Risk to participation in community and service access
FUNCTIONAL IMPACT	Self-management + Social interaction
EVIDENCE	<i>"Escalations result in school exclusion and an inability to safely engage in community activities without support."</i>
FUNDING JUSTIFICATION	<i>"Behaviour support remains necessary to reduce barriers to participation and build capacity in emotional regulation, community engagement, and self-management."</i>

THE LINE A REVIEWER WANTS TO FOLLOW



When each link is stated plainly and evidenced, the reviewer never has to guess or fill a gap. That unbroken line, disability to impairment to risk to need to funding, is exactly what makes a justification hold.

THE ONE HABIT TO KEEP

For every recommended support, be able to trace it back along the whole line. If any link is missing, the support is the first thing a reviewer will question.

