

# What is the -can?

The I-CAN v5 is a support needs assessment, planning and resource allocation tool designed to assess and guide support delivery for people with disabilities including people with mental health concerns. Version 5 of I-CAN has improved user friendliness, flexibility and wider applicability. Research shows I-CAN is a valid, reliable tool.

It provides a support services and family friendly holistic assessment conceptually based upon the internationally recognized ICF (WHO, 2001) framework. Support services can use the I-CAN for an independent costing estimate (assisting the transition to the NDIS), and to ensure quality services, integrated with health care and person-centred plans. Government can use the I-CAN to allocate resources and predict costs. Families use the I-CAN when applying to NDIS and to coordinate and liaise with support and health professionals. An individual support needs report is generated online which helps guide service delivery and planning. The I-CAN is used in many settings, including;

- Resource allocation for individual funding
- Intake and discharge for people with acquired disabilities such as brain injury or quadriplegia
- Support planning and supported living for people with intellectual disabilities, and for people with mental health support needs
- Planning for the move to community living for people leaving congregate settings
- Assessment and classification of disability
- Support expert evidence at legal hearings

The multi award-winning I-CAN has been under continuous research and development since 1998 by a team of internationally recognised researchers primarily from the University of Sydney. The I-CAN has been published in international journals, and presented at leading conferences worldwide.

[www.i-can.org.au](http://www.i-can.org.au)

If you are interested in using the I-CAN tool, facilitator training, research results, CDS membership, or finding out more, visit the I-CAN website or contact CDS:

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**Version 5**

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# Why use the I-CAN?

The I-CAN comprehensively assesses, describes and monitors an individual's support needs. Records are accurate regardless of staff turnover and improve quality outcomes. The I-CAN unites person-centred and strengths-based principles, by allowing the individual to direct their own assessment, in collaboration with their circle of support. This gives voice to their support needs, as opposed to assessments directed by professionals.

The I-CAN is at the forefront of best practice in support needs assessment, reflecting current paradigms. Easy to use on or offline, training is provided in both administration and the philosophy of support and empowerment.

- An independent cost assessment tool, that could be used when applying to the NDIS
- Provide a comprehensive intake assessment or discharge report
- Monitor support needs, outcomes and skill levels
- Inform service delivery decision making
- Link together and streamline existing assessment and service delivery processes
- Provide an adjunct to psychological testing
- Profile supports and provide a basis for training or educative programs
- Improve communication with and between health, mental health and disability professionals
- Assist with funding applications or appeals
- Secure record keeping with additional privacy levels for sensitive information

access community, engage in community life	Daily Minor
Bob can access local shops independently and access the community with minor support and supervision, particularly when spending money.	
engage in recreation activities	Daily Moderate
Bob enjoys recreation and leisure activities. He could access his recreation program independently once he has had travel training, at the moment he needs support from staff to get there.	
engage in spiritual or religious activities	Monthly Minor
Bob likes to attend the local church with his housemates most Sundays, ask Bob if he would like to join in.	

Extract from an I-CAN Individual Support Needs Report

# How it works

The trained I-CAN Facilitator organizes an I-CAN assessment interview meeting, usually once a year unless circumstances changes. The I-CAN Facilitator invites the person and their family, direct support professionals, consulting health professionals and other stakeholders to attend or provide input through a telephone interview.

The I-CAN Facilitator guides a semi-structured self-assessment interview process. Abilities, goals, support needs and any follow-up actions are recorded and rated. The I-CAN is not like traditional assessments, focused on deficits and inabilities; the I-CAN focuses on a positive future, aims to describe what I CAN DO with the right support, and how the support is best to be provided.

If the interview is completed online, an individual support needs report is automatically generated detailing all the supports needed by the person. This report describes how to empower the person to fully participate in all activities of life; how to support the person to achieve a life of quality of their choosing. The report scoring also compares the cost and hours of support received by people with similar needs.

Once data have been entered, managers and administrators can login to perform activities such as;

- Cost estimation for individuals or groups
- Needs comparison
- Excel and SPSS data export
- Track changes over time
- Summary reports

# Screenshots from I-CAN

The screenshots show various components of the I-CAN system:

- Medication Management:** A form for 'Medication management' with a dropdown for frequency (Daily, Occasionally, Monthly, Weekly, Bi-weekly, Quarterly) and a dropdown for duration (4 Daily, 4 Extensive). A note says 'Bob can take his medication once a week with Webster Pack'.
- I-CAN Needs Summary:** A summary page for 'Cyndia De-identified Smith' with fields for Name, Address, Email, Mobile Phone, DOB, Age, Date of Birth, and Participants. It also lists the Facilitator as Bruce O Bruce.
- Needs Summary Only:** A section titled 'Needs Summary Only' with a sub-heading 'About Me' and 'Current Life Situation'.
- Support Intensity Chart:** A bar chart titled 'Figure 1: Highest and Average Support Intensity' comparing 'Highest' (purple) and 'Average' (green) support intensity across various categories like 'Supervision', 'Personal Care', 'Medication Management', etc.
- How healthy and How happy are you?:** Two scales using smiley faces to rate health and happiness. The 'How happy are you?' scale ranges from 0 (Very Unhappy) to 5 (Very Happy).