**HEALTH CONDITION**

**FOCUS (HOW THE ‘PROBLEM’ IS DEFINED)**

- An abnormal state of health

**ASSOCIATED WORDS & PHRASES**

- Disease
- Injury
- Illness
- Syndrome
- Condition
- Fracture
- Genetic
- Patient
- Treatment

**ASSOCIATED DESCRIPTIONS**

- “…sustained an acquired brain injury (ABI) subsequent to a cerebral vascular accident (CVA)/stroke.”

**WRITING FOR THE NDIS**

- Describe the health condition: “John’s acquired brain injury…”

**IMPAIRMENT**

**PROBLEM IN BODY FUNCTION OR BODY STRUCTURE**

- Problem in body function or body structure

**ASSOCIATED WORDS & PHRASES**

- Impaired
- Decreased
- Limited
- Poor
- Contusion
- Hemiparesis
- Patient
- Rehabilitation

**ASSOCIATED DESCRIPTIONS**

- “…sustained left fronto-temporal haematoma with right upper and lower limb hemiparesis... Presents with moderate to severe, permanent cognitive impairment in areas of attention, working memory, impulse control.”

**WRITING FOR THE NDIS**

- Describe the permanent impairment: “…has resulted in permanent cognitive-communication impairment. He has difficulty with comprehension and verbal communication, and his social functioning is impaired…”

**ACTIVITY LIMITATION**

**PROBLEM WITH CARRYING OUT A TASK OR ACTIVITY**

- Problem with carrying out a task or activity

**ASSOCIATED WORDS & PHRASES**

- Aided
- Needs support with...
- Unable to...
- Requires prompting...
- Skill development
- Compensatory strategies
- Patient/Client
- Rehabilitation

**ASSOCIATED DESCRIPTIONS**

- “…unable to safely walk more than 100m unaided...becomes distressed and angry at local shop keeper when he has to wait in line...forgets items to purchase due to memory impairment…”

**WRITING FOR THE NDIS**

- Describe how the permanent impairment limits the person’s activities (functional impairment): “…This permanent impairment is severely limiting John’s ability to have conversations as he used to with his children…”

**PARTICIPATION**

**PROBLEM WITH INVOLVEMENT IN LIFE SITUATIONS**

- Problem with involvement in life situations

**ASSOCIATED WORDS & PHRASES**

- Functional
- Meaningful activities
- Everyday situation
- Social roles
- Participates in...
- Context specific
- Valued outcomes
- Big Things
- Meaningful goals
- Client/person/participant
- Enabling, maintaining, preventing deterioration; small, slow incremental gains

**ASSOCIATED DESCRIPTIONS**

- “…isn’t working as continues to forget job interview appointments...socially isolated and stays at home...shopkeeper has indicated that he will be banned from shop if outburst happens again”

**WRITING FOR THE NDIS**

- Describe how the functional impairment limits the person’s ability to fulfil their life roles; the functional limitation to his capacity: “…This is severely impacting on his functional capacity to fulfil his role as father in the way he did pre-injury. John requires ongoing capacity building support from a Speech Pathologist to maintain the gains he has made during rehabilitation in the area of his life, so he can achieve his goal to be a good dad for his children. SP can monitor and update his strategies to maintain his current level of functioning. Currently he is able to…”

**DISABILITY**

Incorporates impairment, activity limitation and participation for a person. The NDIS’ focus is at the participation end of the spectrum, which is about the person’s goals, life roles, functional capacity. Your documentation, requests and evidence need to include health condition and impairment but should emphasise limitations in their activity and capacity to participate.