**UNDERSTANDING YOUR NDIS FUNDING PLAN**

**SUMMARY OF REQUESTED INFORMATION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
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| **CAPITAL SUPPORTS** | |
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**Disclaimer:**

The content provided is for information purposes only. No claim is made as to the accuracy of the content of the information.

The user should always refer back to the NDIS or contact the Royal Society for the Blind for further information.

**There are THREE support purposes that may be funded under the NDIS**

* Core
* Capital, and
* Capacity Building

Each one is broken down into a number of support categories and funding is allocated to each based on what is necessary and reasonable to achieve your goals. This funding is in addition to support being provided by family, friends and other community and Government services.

Funding provided for under the NDIS is aimed to give you more control over the supports and services you receive and the flexibility to manage your budget your way.

For more information about NDIS support purposes, please [click here](https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/using-your-plan/managing-your-plan/support-budgets-your-plan) to visit the NDIS website.

**Please note:** not all support categories will be applicable to your circumstances and you can only use them if you have funds allocated and it enables you to meet your goals.

**CORE SUPPORTS**

Supports that help you with completing activities in your day to day life.

In most cases funds allocated for Core Supports can be used across any of the support categories under Core Supports but cannot be reallocated to other support purposes (i.e. capital or capacity building supports).

*Support categories include:*

* Assistance with daily living
* Transport
* Consumables
* Assistance with social and community participation

If requested, more information is provided on each requested core support categories below.

{% if core\_daily\_life == ‘YES’ %}

**Core Support – Assistance with Daily life**

Funding to assist you in your daily personal activities and supports to help you live more independently.

*What you could use your funding for:*

* Assistance with daily activities (e.g. bathing, dressing, medication assistance, help moving around the house, attending personal appointments)
* Assistance with household tasks to help maintain your home environment (e.g. cleaner, gardener, doing the shopping)
* Preparation and delivery of meals but does not include costs for the food itself (e.g. Meals on Wheels)
* Assistance to support shared living arrangements
* Short term accommodation and assistance (e.g., respite)
* Medium term accommodation and assistance (e.g., transitional accommodation before moving into a more permanent home)

{% endif %}{% if core\_transport == ‘YES’ %}

**Core Support – Transport**

Funding to help you get around and access supports in the community, whether it be for work, daily needs, social or vocational purposes.

*What you could use your funding for:*

* funds for a worker to accompany a participant for community access
* cost of the transport itself (e.g. private transport, access to public transport)
* costs of road tolls, parking fees and running costs of the vehicle

How you can spend your transport funding and how it is paid to you (e.g. upfront or in regular payments) will be different for each person, but the amount you will receive will be set by the NDIA.

For example, if you choose to receive the funding in regular fortnightly payments, the payment is automatically transferred to your nominated bank account and you will not need to claim each fortnight as this happens automatically.

{% endif %}{% if core\_consumables == ‘YES’ %}

**Core Support – Consumables**

Funding for you to purchase everyday use items and can include funding for low cost low risk assistive technology and equipment to improve independence and/or mobility.

*What you could use your funding for:*

* Low cost low risk assistive technology (e.g. portable magnifiers, optical magnifiers, magnifying lamps and lights, talking LCD clock, talking calculator, finger guards, needle threaders, talking timers and thermometers, white cane replacement tips and balls)
* Continence products (e.g. disposable pads, pants, catheters)
* Nutrition products (e.g. vitamin and mineral supplements)
* Home Enteral Nutrition (‘HEN’) products (e.g. feeding tube)

For a more comprehensive list of items that can be purchased from RSB, [click here](https://www.rsb.org.au/shop).

***Relevant Terms***

Home Enteral Nutrition (‘HEN’) – the administration of nutrition either orally or by feeding tube directly into the gastrointestinal tract.

{% endif %}{% if core\_social\_participation == ‘YES’ %}

**Core Support – Assistance with social and community participation**

Funding for you to participate in community, social and recreational activities of your choice at the standard level where vision support is needed.

*What could you use your funding for:*

* Attending personal development courses
* Joining a social group
* Outing or a holiday
* Holiday camp
* Visiting the local library
* Going to a movie or concert
* Attending community events
* Joining a sporting club

{% endif %}

**CAPITAL SUPPORTS**

Investment funding for higher-cost pieces of assistive technology, equipment for mobility, communication and recreational inclusions, home or vehicle modifications, or for Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA).

Funds allocated for Capital Supports cannot be moved from one support category to another and can only be used for the approved items. In general, the participant will be required to obtain a quote and approval from the NDIA prior to receiving these funds.

*Support categories include:*

* Home modifications
* Assistive Technology

If requested, more information is provided on each requested capital support category below.

{% if capital\_home == ‘YES’ %}

**Capital Support – Home Modifications**

Home modifications are changes to your home including the structure, layout, or fittings so you can navigate your house in safety and comfort. Funding for home modifications may be included in your NDIS plan if you or your carers cannot reasonably access frequently used rooms such as the bedroom and bathroom. Funds allocated under this support category can only be used for specific items such as lighting, building ramps or widening doorways.

Home modifications require an assessment by a home modification assessor such as an Occupational Therapist before the funding is approved and will work with you to make sure that the modifications meet your needs and goals.

Where the home modifications will exceed $15,000, two separate quotes will need to be provided to the NDIS which may include a breakdown of the dimensions of the area being modified and a description of any fixtures or items provided by the builder.

{% endif %}{% if capital\_AT == ‘YES’ %}

**Capital Support – Assistive Technology**

Assistive Technology (‘AT’) is designed to make everyday life more manageable and keep you safe by providing you with an aid, service, or piece of equipment. It can range anywhere from a non-slip bathmat to a white cane. There are four levels that provide different assistive products and each level has different requirements. Funding for assistive technology is listed in the Capital budget of your NDIS plan.

There are 4 levels of AT depending on your needs and complexity requirements:

* Level 1 – Basic
* Level 2 – Standard
* Level 3 – Specialised
* Level 4 - Complex

**Level 1** **(basic)** – this level encompasses simple, low risk products that you can purchase at a store (for example, your local chemist) or online. They are products that are easy to set up or require little assistance such as installing a doorbell to hear if you have guests or large print labels. They are usually low-cost products that do not require any training for you to use them effectively. You do not need an assessment for Basic Assistive technology and funding is usually self-managed. This means you get to choose how you spend your funding on the products or services you need.

**Level 2 (standard)** – standard assistive technology is very similar to level 1. You do not require an assessment and your funding is still self-managed. However, the products that come under this level are more personalised to you. This means you can generally try the products before you buy them to see if they are the right fit for you. These products can include handrails connected to the toilet or smartphone apps specifically designed for people who are vision impaired.

**Level 3 (specialised) –** this level is quite different from the previous two levels. It usually includes equipment that is more expensive than the other two levels and can potentially be dangerous to use. This means that you will need to be assessed by an assistive technology assessor before having access to this level of funding.

**Level 4 (complex)** – this is the highest level of funding there is for AT. These products are made just for you or adjusted to fit into your lifestyle. These are products you might need at home, work or at your place of study. This can include poles or electronic mobility devices to help you get around and are often purchased from specialist stores. You must be assessed by an assistive technology assessor before you can access this level of funding.

Who is an Assistive Technology (‘AT’) assessor and what do they do?

An AT assessor is someone who can help you decide what AT is right for you. They may help assemble your AT, help you use it correctly, or even help handle the paperwork the NDIS needs. Many different people can be AT assessors, and depending on what AT you require, not all of them may apply for you. These people include:

* Occupational Therapist – someone who can assist in working out ways to do everyday tasks.
* Physiotherapist – someone who can help with how you move your body.
* Rehabilitation engineer – someone who works on specialised technology to help assist with your disability.

Funding for an AT assessment may be provided for under the Capacity Building Support Purpose.

*How to manage my funding?*

Lower levels of funding are relatively easy to self-manage and means that you can purchase low cost AT directly from the provider of your choice. However, you may want to consider how to manage higher levels of funding.

There are two other options available to you:

1. **Agency managed** which means that the NDIS provides the supplier with your payment and then you receive your AT. The positives of this is that you can receive your technology quickly.
2. A **Plan Management company** which looks after your funding for you. This can be a good option if you struggle to understand how your funding works and what it entitles you to.

If you work with a specific provider like the Royal Society for the Blind then a service booking is used to select funding in your NDIS plan for a service or support they will deliver. A service booking is a way for you to engage with your chosen provider(s) online and ensures that both parties are aware of each item and how much it will cost.

{% endif %}

**CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORTS**

Supports to help build your independence and skills to help you reach your long-term goals.

Funds allocated for Capacity Building supports cannot be moved from one support category to another. Funding can only be used to purchase approved individual supports for a specific support category.

*Support categories include:*

* Coordination of supports
* Improved living arrangements
* Increased social and community participation
* Job assistance
* Improved relationships
* Improved health & wellbeing
* Improved learning
* Improved life choices
* Improved daily living

If requested, more information is provided on each requested capacity building support category below.

{% if capacity\_coord\_supports == ‘YES’ %}

**Capacity Building – Coordination of supports**

Funding to strengthen a participant’s abilities to coordinate and implement supports in their NDIS plans and to participate more fully in the community. This is a fixed amount.

Your funding can be used for a support coordinator who can help you:

* Understand how you can use your NDIS plan to meet your goals
* Manage your resources more effectively
* Learn how to access and use the NDIS portal
* Monitor the progress and outcomes of achieving your goals
* Prepare for your next NDIS review meeting

There are 3 levels of support depending on your needs and complexity of coordination:

* Level 1 – Support Connection
* Level 2 – Coordination of Supports
* Level 3 – Specialist Support Coordination

**Level 1 – Support Connection** – Short-term assistance to build your capacity to implement your NDIS plan. This includes assisting to help you with identifying service providers, connecting, establishing and maintaining relationships with relevant services and negotiating Service Agreements.

**Level 2 – Coordination of Supports** – Longer-term support to build your capacity to coordinate a more complex service delivery environment. Includes providing assistance as provided under level 1, as well as developing your skills to build and maintain a resilient network of supports, so that you can manage your supports and networks more independently over time.

**Level 3 – Specialist Support Coordination** – Specialist support for more complex situations to address complex barriers to plan implementation. This includes a tailored approach by coordinating support services using an expert or specialist support coordinator to meet the individual needs of the participant.

Once immediate complex barriers have been addressed by a specialist support coordinator under level 3, a participant may have funding provided under level 1 for more general coordination of supports for the remainder of their plan.

{% endif %} {% if capacity\_living\_arrangements == ‘YES’ %}

**Capacity Building – Improved living arrangements**

Funding to help you live more independently by helping you find and apply for shared or independent accommodation, including temporary or more permanent housing solutions.

Funding can be used to engage a service provider to:

* Give you advice and guidance to find suitable accommodation
* Help you to build skills required to manage rental agreements, tenancy obligations and other accommodation-related responsibilities
* Help you apply for a rental tenancy
* Help you and your potential landlord design a rental agreement suitable to both parties (e.g. identify issues to be raised with your landlord such as maintenance around the property)
* Help explain your tenancy rules and help you meet these obligations

The NDIS may contribute to the cost of accommodation in situations where the participant has a need for specialised housing due to their disability but in general, funding does not cover daily living costs such as rent, groceries, utility bills and housing costs.

{% endif %}{% if capacity\_social\_participation == ‘YES’ %}

**Capacity Building – Increased social and community participation**

Funding for this support category can help you to access the community for social and recreation activities either individually or in a group, or attending a centre-based program to develop skills that will help you to access the community independently.

*What you can use this funding to pay for:*

* Sports coaching
* Joining activity groups (e.g. going to the movies, bowling, visiting local tourist attractions, cooking, arts and craft, outings and access to live music, dancing and drama)
* Camps, classes and vacation activities with capacity building components (e.g. assistance to establish volunteer arrangements in the community, mentoring, peer support or individual skill development)
* Other recreation and leisure activities

{% endif %}{% if capacity\_job\_assistance == ‘YES’ %}

**Capacity Building – Job assistance**

Support services to help you find and maintain employment for any age participant.

Funding can be used to engage a service provider who specialises in employment for people with disability to help you:

* Develop and update your resume
* Develop foundational work skills to enter employment
* Prepare for a job interview
* Build your work skills to assist you to do well in your job (e.g. through Disability Employment Service (DES))
* Apply for jobs in supported or open employment (e.g. Australian Disability Enterprises (‘ADE’)
* Develop workplace solutions with your employer
* School-to-work transition (e.g. School Leaver Employment Supports (SLES))

*Australian Disability Enterprises (‘ADEs’)*

Australian Disability Enterprises (‘ADE’s) support people with moderate to severe disability to

gain training and experience for the workplace.

ADEs offer similar working conditions to other employers and offer a wide variety of work tasks such as:

* Assembly, packaging, production and recycling
* Plant nursery
* Garden maintenance and landscaping
* Cleaning and laundry services
* Food services

To learn more about Australian Disability Enterprises (‘ADE’), [click here](https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers-programmes-services-for-people-with-disability/australian-disability-enterprises).

*Disability Employment Services (‘DES’)*

Disability Employment Services (‘DES’) help people with a disability, injury or health condition to prepare for, find and keep a job.

DES providers are a mix of large, medium and small for-profit and not-for-profit organisations, experienced in supporting people with disability and employers to put in place practices that support the employee in the workplace.

DES has two parts:

1. **Disability Management Service** to help a job seeker with disability to find a job and provide occasional support in the workplace to keep a job
2. **Employment Support Service** to help a job seeker with permanent disability to find a job and who need regular, ongoing support in the workplace to keep a job

To learn more about Disability Employment Services, [click here](https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/programmes-services/disability-employment-services).

*JobAccess*

JobAccess is an excellent resource for all things relating to disability employment, including Disability Employment Services (‘DES’). They a comprehensive website and telephone information service to provide advice on disability related matters. They can also help to find workplace solutions for people with disability and their employers.

For more information about JobAccess, [click here](https://www.jobaccess.gov.au/).

If you are already employed, you can apply to be a Work Assist participant under JobAccess, who can help provide:

* Advice about job redesign to make it more suitable for you
* A comprehensive workplace assessment
* Advice about workplace modifications or special equipment to give you more support

For more information on Work Assist, [click here](https://www.jobaccess.gov.au/people-with-disability/work-assist).

*School Leaver Employment Supports (‘SLES’)*

Support for school leavers to assist them to transition from school to employment. These supports are designed to plan and implement a pathway to inclusive employment, focusing on capacity building for goal achievement for the individual. For example, supports include:

* Work experience
* Job site training
* Travel training
* Activities that contribute to achieving an employment outcome
* Connections to ongoing employment support

With appropriate supports, it is expected that SLES participants will transition to Disability Employment Services for job seeking, placement and post placement support.

For more information on School Leaver Employment Supports, [click here](https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/finding-keeping-and-changing-jobs/leaving-school).

{% endif %}{% if capacity\_relationships == ‘YES’ %}

**Capacity Building – Improved relationships**

This support will help you develop positive behaviours and interact with others.

*What can you use your funding for:*

* Specialist behaviour and intervention supports
* Training for carers in behaviour management strategies
* Developing social skills to help with community interaction
* Health professionals for example, (physiotherapists, occupational therapists and social workers) who will work with you and your GP to develop a behavioural plan your and limit and prevent concerning behaviours
* Intensive behaviour intervention
* Individualised social skill development

This funding is assessed by the NDIS on a case-by-case basis. It is aimed to ‘reasonable and necessary’ support your goals.

{% endif %} {% if capacity\_health\_wellbeing == ‘YES’ %}

**Capacity Building – Improved health and wellbeing**

Funding to support and maintain your health and well-being.

*What can you use your funding for:*

* Dietician to provide diet advice to help you eat well
* Exercise Physiologist to help you with building balance and general fitness

*Dietician*

Specialists who can help give you guidance and advice on how to eat well. They can help you develop meal plans that take into account your specific needs, as well as your likes and dislikes.

*Exercise Physiologist*

A qualified health professional who can provide you with one-on-one training to help with balance and general fitness. They can help you by building function through exercise to develop strength, balance and endurance to perform everyday tasks. Building function will allow you to perform activities of daily living that are key to defining independence, such as the ability to cook, clean and groom.

Funding under this support category does not cover the cost of food items or gym memberships.

{% endif %} {% if capacity\_learning == ‘YES’ %}

**Capacity Building – Improved learning**

This funding helps with improved learning supports that will help you transition through school to further education and prepare participants to reach their long-term goals.

*What can you use your funding for:*

* TAFE
* University
* Assistance in applying for study programs or courses
* Planning study timetable (study workload)
* Support through orientation
* Student budgeting
* Purchasing textbooks (may be funded if additional charges may apply)
* Support worker to attend class with you (or accompany you to classes)
* Setting up student accommodation/living arrangements
* Specialist transport due to a disability
* Specialized training to teachers and other staff to help them support and understand the client’s needs
* Help with dealing with anxiety or stress as well as social skills

While the NDIS can provide support to you on your educational journey, it is very particular about what it will and will not fund. Funding under this support category does not include assisting with school or tuition fees.

{% endif %} {% if capacity\_life\_choices == ‘YES’ %}

**Capacity Building – Improved life choices**

This funding will assist in having access to training in planning and plan/budget management to help you manage your plan, funding and paying for services.

*What can you use your funding for:*

* Building financial skills
* Organisational skills
* Enhancing the participant’s ability to direct their supports
* Develop self-management capabilities

You can receive assistance with improving life choices in two ways:

1. Planning and Plan Management
2. Financial intermediary

*Planning and plan management*

* assist the participant to develop their skills for self-management in future plans
* assist the participant to engage providers
* develop service agreements
* Paying providers and claiming payment from the NDIA and assisting the participant to maintain records.

*Financial intermediary*

* Giving increased control over plan application and financial assistance
* Managing and monitoring budgets over the course of the plan
* Managing NDIS claims and paying providers for delivered service
* Maintaining records and producing regular statements showing the financial position of the plan
* Providing advice on commercial terms within service agreements{% endif %}{% if capacity\_daily\_living == ‘YES’ %}

**Capacity Building – Improved daily living**

Funding provided under this support category is intended to help increase your skills, independence at home or receive treatment to improve your mobility. It can be used for assessment, training and therapy by a professional.

*What can you use your funding for:*

* Financing an initial assessment as well as ongoing treatment or training (e.g. assessment for Assistive Technology and training on how to use it, orientation and mobility instruction, guide dog training and ongoing support)
* Medical assistance from a nurse (administering medication or specialist care)
* Registered nurse (to give high level of care, provide training to the person who looks after you to develop extra skills to enjoy living more independently.
* Therapeutic services (financing a range of services including: physiotherapist, occupational therapist(‘OT’), speech pathologist, psychologist)
* Early intervention supports (assist with child development with linking a provider support services) catered to your child’s individual needs.
* Care and specialised training (if you would like a person to become your carer to help you live independently, you may like to spend part of your funding on training them for your suited needs.
* help to develop and maintain daily budgets and to plan purchases
* Assistance with report writing to submit for review of your plan at the end of the year or if a review for more funds is needed

**Relevant Terms**

Counselling or psychologist: a health professional to assist you with emotional support through your vision impairment.

Occupational therapist: a health professional to help you learn how to safely do tasks (for example, cooking and cutting skills, advice on equipment)

Orientation and mobility instruction: how to move safely in the home and in the community, including training in white case use and assistance with catching public transport.

Physiotherapist: a health professional who can help with how you move your body.

{% endif %}

**CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**The Royal Society for the Blind**

Phone: 1300 944 306

Website: <https://www.rsb.org.au/contact-us>

**NDIS**

Phone: 1800 800 110

Email: [enquiries@ndis.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@ndis.gov.au)

Website: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/contact>

Live chat, online form and other resources available on website