



REASONABLE AND NECESSARY SUPPORTS

Helping you understand the NDIS

WHAT IS THE NDIS?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is a major social reform offering a new way of providing support and services for people living with disability or significant impairment under the age of 65. As a registered NDIS provider we have a wide range of support services to help navigate and get the most out of the scheme, enabling people to achieve their goals

WHAT SUPPORTS WILL THE NDIS FUND?

The NDIS funds 'reasonable and necessary' supports to help you achieve your goals. Understanding what is 'reasonable and necessary' will help you:

- when you have a meeting with an NDIS Planner or Local Area Coordinator to discuss your support needs
- make the most of the funds in your plan
- when you come to have an annual review of your plan, or
- if you need a change to your plan because the supports in it do not meet your needs.
- understand why the NDIA might decide a support or service should not be funded through the scheme

There are six areas the NDIS looks at when allocating the reasonable and necessary funding in a plan.

1. SUPPORTS TO HELP YOU MEET YOUR GOALS

Every funded support in an NDIS plan must relate back to your goals. This is why your goals are **so** important and why you should take time to reflect on what your goals are and what you hope to

achieve. For example, you may want to; increase your independence, get back into the workforce, to have greater access to the community, or increase your social and economic participation.

2. SUPPORTS THAT CONSIDER YOUR INFORMAL NETWORKS

The supports you receive in your plan will relate to your informal support network which might include the support you receive from your family, friends and your local community. When you have your planning conversation with an NDIA planner or Local Area Coordinator, one of the first questions they will probably ask is – who is in your circle of informal networks?

Maybe you have a partner or family member who is unable to work or study because they are your carer.

Perhaps you would like to increase your independence and rely less on family members or friends.

It is very important for you to be clear about the things family and friends do for you and if this is appropriate.

The NDIS does not expect your family and friends to provide a level of care that is unsustainable and/or unreasonable.

3. SUPPORTS TO FACILITATE SOCIAL/ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

One of the underlying principles of the NDIS is to facilitate social and economic participation for people living with a disability. This does not mean the NDIS is going to make you look for a job if it is not one of your goals, it is also not there to make you participate in social activities that you are not interested in.

The funded supports are there for you to be able to access your community, spend your money in the way you choose to, do the activities that you want and participate in your community in a way that suits you best. You have the choice and the control.

4. SUPPORTS THAT REPRESENT VALUE FOR MONEY

The NDIS is there to ensure that the funds provided in your plan represent value for money. They will consider the benefits that will be achieved by providing a support, the costs of alternatives and if they represent value for money.

Cheapest is not always the best and the NDIS recognises this and will take it into consideration

when deciding on the funding for which you may be eligible.

If a support is not considered necessary to help you to lead an ordinary life it is not likely that the support will be funded. Supports that are not required or have no direct value will not be funded because they do not represent value for money.

5. SUPPORTS THAT ARE BENEFICIAL

The NDIS funds supports that are proven to be beneficial and effective. For example, if you have previously received a treatment that has been of benefit to you and you can provide documented measurable evidence from the provider, the NDIS may consider funding the support.

As an insurance scheme the NDIS is looking to help people to maintain their independence, level of wellness and their ability to participate in the Australian community in a cost effective and beneficial way.

6. SUPPORTS MOST APPROPRIATELY FUNDED THROUGH THE NDIS

The NDIS is there to work with other government sectors to help people living with disability to lead an ordinary life. The NDIS will not provide funded supports if they are more appropriately provided through another sector. For example, the NDIS will not fund medications as they see this as the

responsibility of the health sector, similarly they will not fund all the supports required by someone if they require adjustments in the workplace as some of this responsibility lies with the employment sector.