

Managing your NDIS Funding Package – Overview

June 2017

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The NDIS has been designed to give you choice and control over your plan, and flexibility in how you spend your support funding.

There are three types of support budgets in your funding package:

1. Core budget – includes supports to help you complete activities related to daily living and work towards your longer-term goals
2. Capacity Building budget – includes supports to enable you to build your independence and skills
3. Capital budget – includes assistive technologies, equipment and home or vehicle modifications, and funding for capital costs you may need (e.g. Specialist Disability Accommodation).

Core budget

Your Core budget is the most flexible, and includes four categories of support:

1. Consumables (e.g. purchasing everyday use items such as continence aids)
2. Daily Activities (e.g. assistance with self-care activities during the day or evening)
3. Assistance with Social and Community Participation (e.g. supports to enable you to engage in social or recreational activities)
4. Transport (e.g. if you are unable to use public transport because of your disability).

The good news is you can generally use Core budget funds allocated against one support category to purchase supports under another support category **unless** funds have been set aside for a specific purpose such as periodic payments for transport, or any Core budget line item type that is:

- Compensation
- Specialised Disability Accommodation i.e. accommodation for participants who require specialist housing solutions due to significant functional impairment and/or very high support needs
- In-kind e.g. Government pre-paid supports such as school transport or some therapy supports
- Stated item (including Quotes for certain items) e.g. assistance in a shared living arrangement.

In these cases the funds within a category must only be used for that specific purpose. For details about your Core supports please refer to your NDIS plan.

Capacity Building budget

The Capacity Building funding is allocated across eight support sub-categories, each matched with the goals you've come up with in your plan. You can choose how to spend these funds to purchase any approved individual support within its category, but won't be able to move funding from one category to another.

The Capacity Building support categories include:

1. Choice and Control e.g. training in planning and plan management
2. Daily Activity e.g. therapy aimed at building your capacity to participate
3. Employment e.g. employment related assessment and counselling
4. Health and Well Being e.g. exercise advice required due to impact of disability

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5. Home Living e.g. support to obtain/retain appropriate accommodation
6. Lifelong Learning e.g. assistance moving from school to further education
7. Relationships e.g. positive behavioural support strategies to reduce behaviours of concern
8. Social and Community Participation e.g. Individual life skills development and training including public transport training and support, developing skills for community, social and recreational participation.

Support Coordination (if required) is included in the Capacity Building budget. This is a fixed amount for strengthening participant's abilities to coordinate and implement supports in their plans and to participate more fully in the community.

Capital Support budget

The Capital Support budget relates to supports such as assistive technology or modifications to your home and as such depends on quotes from suppliers. Funds within this budget can only be used for their specific purpose (e.g. a rail in the bathroom or a wheelchair) and cannot be used to fund other items.

The Capital Support budget has two support categories:

- Assistive Technology – includes equipment items for mobility, personal care, communication and recreational inclusion (e.g. wheelchairs or vehicle modifications)
- Home Modifications (e.g. rail in the bathroom).

Starting your plan

The NDIS can work with you to put your plan into action, and depending on your situation there are a range of people who can help you implement your plan and support you to start receiving supports. These would have been discussed with you during your planning process and may be a Local Area Coordinator or an Early Childhood Partner. Some people may also have a Support Coordinator funded in their plan to help them get started. You can start your plan by yourself if you are self-managed. For further information about managing supports in your plan, including making service bookings and using the myplace Participant Portal, visit the participants section of our website at www.ndis.gov.au/participants.

More information

How to contact the NDIS

Please remember if you phone us that we need to know we're talking to the right person so we'll ask for details only you, or a person authorised on your behalf, would know.

- Phone us: call **1800 800 110** 8am to 11pm (local time) Monday to Friday
- TTY users: call **1800 555 677** and ask for 1800 800 110
- Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) users: call **1800 555 727** and ask for 1800 800 110
- Internet relay users: visit **www.relayservice.gov.au** and ask for 1800 800 110
- For people who need help with English: Call TIS: **131 450**

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*1800 calls from fixed lines are free. Calls from mobiles may be charged.