Understanding NDIS Plan Funding

**This guide provides:**

* **A table containing an overview of NDIS fundng.**
* **Guidance for providers, which offers more detailed explanations of these terms.**

**You can also find an example of NDIS funding in Appendix 1: Example of NDIS Funding at** [**nds.org.au/stpvic/resource-library**](https://www.nds.org.au/stpvic/resource-library)

## **NDIS Funding Overview**

| Support area | The funding support category will be identified here. |
| --- | --- |
| Budget | The funding allocated to the support category above will be detailed here. This is the total amount funded for the length of the plan term. |
| Details | Outlines some suggestions as to how the participant might use their funding. This will often reflect the discussions during first plan or plan review process. |
| How the supports will be paid | This details how providers will receive payment for supports provided. |

## **Guidance for Providers**

Please see below for a more detailed explanation of the above-mentioned terms.

## Support area

Support categories are grouped into three areas to align to the purpose of the funded supports. These include Core, Capital and Capacity Building:

* **Core** supports are flexible within Core categories. This means that participants can use their Core funding to purchase any support items under all four sub-categories (including: assistance with daily life, transport, consumables and assistance with social and community participation), that fall under the Core ‘Support Purpose’, as long as they refer back to the participant’s goals and are not stated supports or periodic transport payments.
* **Capacity Building** supports are only flexible within each sub-category. This means that participants can purchase all support items that fall under the respective support category (note: there are some exceptions to this, dependent on registration requirements i.e. specialised early-childhood intervention). Providers will need to use the [NDIS Price Guide](https://www.ndis.gov.au/html/sites/default/files/documents/Provider/201617-vic-nsw-qld-tas-price-guide.pdf) to determine what support items are included under each support category.
* **Capital** supports are generally restricted to specific items identified in the participant’s plan. These may include Assistive Technology supports. Most Capital supports require a quote, and can include assessment, delivery, set-up, and adjustment and maintenance costs. For more information refer to the [Assistive Technology and Consumables Code Guide](https://www.ndis.gov.au/medias/documents/h0c/h71/8799532023838/NDIS-AT-and-consumables-guide-20161124.pdf).

## Budget

Providers may need to calculate the type of support and number of hours the participant’s funding will allow for. For the price of supports, please refer to the [NDIS Price Guide](https://www.ndis.gov.au/html/sites/default/files/documents/Provider/201617-vic-nsw-qld-tas-price-guide.pdf). The Support Coordinator or Local Area Coordinator (LAC) will work with the participant to determine how the budget will be allocated between support types (unless in-kind or stated) and work with providers and/or the plan manager to explain the breakdown of funding.

## Details

This section reflects discussion in the planning or review process and aims to provide both provider and participant with guidance regarding the use of funding, (however, this does not mean that participants need to use their funding in the way described in ‘Details’). Providers are encouraged to discuss with participants how they would like to use their funding (with the aim of enabling *greater choice and control* for people with disability). In these discussions it is important to consider the goals and outcomes identified by the participant in their plan. All plans will be individually tailored, therefore, may have a varying amount of detail in this section.

If ‘Details’ includes the term ‘Stated’, funding must be used as specified. Participants can contact their Support Coordinator or LAC to understand rationale, as to why some supports have been described as ‘Stated’. For example, if a participant uses their funding in excess and runs out of funding before the plan review date, the NDIA may include ‘Stated Supports’ in their plan to mitigate the risks to the participant if they have no more funding remaining for key supports - and to ensure the financial viability of the scheme.

## How will the supports be paid

The following phrases may be found in this section:

‘NDIS will pay my support provider directly for these supports.’ This indicates that the provider will need to access the Provider Portal to submit a payment request for supports provided.

‘NDIS will pay my plan manager directly for these supports.’ This indicates that the provider will need to submit an invoice to a financial intermediary. Providers will need to request information about the financial intermediary from the participant, if the Financial Intermediary has not already made contact with the provider. The financial intermediary will advise the provider about how to submit an invoice.

‘NDIS will pay me directly for these supports.’ This indicates that the provider will need to submit an invoice directly to the participant. This process should be discussed during intake, or when the NDIS Service Agreement is signed.

If you have any further questions or require additional assistance please contact Stephanie Worsteling, National NDIS Advisor, at [stephanie.worsteling@nds.org.au](mailto:stephanie.worsteling@nds.org.au).

If you require more intensive practical guidance please consider your eligibility for Sector Support Consultancy. For more information contact [sscvic@nds.org.au](mailto:sscvic@nds.org.au) (this contact is for Victorian Providers only).

Disclaimer: National Disability Services Limited (NDS) believes that the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of publishing. However, NDS reserves the right to vary any of this publication without further notice. The information provided in this publication should not be relied on instead of other legal, medical, financial or professional advice.

Appendix 1: Example of NDIS Funding

This appendix complements the Practical Guide titled, *Understanding NDIS Plan Funding*.

**Table 1: Core Support funding**

| **Support Area** | Core supports  **Comment**: All support categories that fall under Core supports can be used flexibly within Core categories. This means that the total funding allocated to Core supports can be used interchangeably across: Assistance with Daily Life, Transport, Consumables; and Assistance with Social and Community Participation. |
| --- | --- |
| **Budget** | $18,649.80  **Comment**: This funding is intended to last the length of the plan. This will be a set period and may vary between participant plans. |
| **Details** | First 6 months of plan:  Support worker to assist John Doe (example) engage with community so that he can develop his interpersonal skills. To be directed by the work of John Doe’s OT/psychologist/speech therapist. To attempt to link with disability specific social/recreational groups (8 hours x 26 weeks for first 6 months of the plan, then 4 hours per week x 26 weeks for the final 6 months of the plan).  Social and recreational groups so that John Doe can develop his interpersonal skills x 6 hours per week x 26 weeks (final 6 months of the plan).  **Comment**: The Participant does not need to access their core support funding in the way described in ‘Details’. This is intended to be a guide for the participant and providers, and reflects what was discussed in the planning meeting. The participant may choose to use this funding across Core support categories. Providers are encouraged to discuss with participants how they would like to access their funding to achieve their goals detailed in their plan. |
| **How will the supports be paid**: | NDIS will pay my plan manager directly for these supports.  **Comment:** This description indicates that the funding is managed by a plan manager/financial intermediary. The provider will need to send their invoices/claims directly to the plan manager. The plan manager will then claim through the participant portal and pay the provider for the supports provided. |

**Table 2: Capacity Building support category funding (Improved daily living)**

| **Support Area** | Improved daily living  **Comment**: This refers to therapy supports including, but not limited to, counselling, assessment and support by a nurse, specialised driver training and individual assessment, therapy and/or training. This support category is flexible. |
| --- | --- |
| **Budget** | $6,561.03 |
| **Details** | Individual Counselling – 10 sessions  Individual Assessment, therapy or training – 29 hours  **Comment**: This could include therapy supports such as, but not limited to, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. |
| **How will the supports be paid** | NDIS will pay my plan manager directly for these supports |

**Table 2: Core Support funding**

| **Support Area** | Support Coordination  **Comment**: This refers to Coordination of Supports. This support category is flexible |
| --- | --- |
| **Budget** | $4,798.04 |
| **Details** | Coordination of supports 1 hour per week for 52 weeks  **Comment**: In application providers may find that the intensity of support required may vary throughout the duration of the plan i.e. participant may require more than 1 hour/week support at the commencement of the plan. In total the provider has been funded to provide 52 hours over the duration of the plan. These can be used flexibly within the total annual number of hours. |
| **How will the supports be paid** | NDIS will pay my support provider directly for these supports  **Comment**: This description indicates that the funding is managed by NDIS. Providers will need to access the Provider Portal to submit a payment request for the support provided. |