

New framework planning – NDIS supports

This fact sheet explains what National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) support groups would be in new framework planning, what the NDIS funds, and how participants can use their funding.



What are NDIS supports?

NDIS supports are disability related supports funded by the NDIS to help participants in everyday life, build their independence and skills, and help them stay safe and connected as they work towards goals.

The NDIS support rules broadly explain what types of supports can be purchased using NDIS funding and include some specific goods and services which cannot be purchased using NDIS funding.

What will change?

We are consulting on proposed changes to the NDIS support rules for new framework planning that will begin in April 2027. The proposed NDIS support groups are intended to align with the support needs assessment, budget method rules and how plans will be developed. These support groups are listed below.

The proposed changes are intended to apply across both old framework (current) planning and new framework planning.

The proposed support categories are intended to cover the same broad types of supports currently funded through the NDIS, while making the Rules easier to understand and align with new framework planning.

How previous feedback has informed these proposed changes

Previous consultation on NDIS supports found that:	In response, the proposed changes would:
• support categories are difficult to understand • there were too many categories • some descriptions were unclear • the replacement supports process is confusing.	• reduce the number of support categories • use broader, purpose-based descriptions • make categories easier to understand • better align categories with new framework planning.

Some proposed changes make it clear that NDIS supports can be purchased from any retail, hardware, pharmacy or other stores and do not need to be purchased from specialist disability providers.

Other proposed changes include:

- Making it clear animal-assisted therapy can be funded when it is delivered by an appropriately qualified allied health professional as part of a therapeutic intervention
- Making it clearer that some items which are commonly disputed are not NDIS funded, specifically:
    - Fencing and gates
    - Electronic noise-cancelling headphones
    - Hair styling tools (brushes, hair dryers and straighteners)
    - Hydrogen fuel and electric vehicle charging stations and costs
    - Scuba therapy

Summary of changes

Current NDIS Supports Rule	Proposed changes
36 support categories	18 proposed support categories
Names of support categories based on registration groupings	Names of support categories refer to assessed needs and funding groups used in new framework planning
Broad descriptions of types of supports	Broad purpose-based information with examples to help describe the intent of the support category
Supports are available to participants and prospective participants: • generally • where stated in the plan	Supports may be available to participants and prospective participants: • generally • where stated in the plan • where there is an assessed need

Why are support groups changing?

The proposed support groups aim to make the Rules easier to understand and better align with how funding and planning may operate from April 2027 under new framework planning.

The proposed groups focus on the purpose of a support and participant needs, rather than provider registration groups.

What does the NDIS fund?

The NDIS funds disability-related supports.

These are supports that:

- are related to your disability
- help you with everyday activities
- support your independence and participation

Supports are grouped into categories to make them easier to understand and use.

These categories describe what the support is for, how it helps, and when it can be funded.

New support categories

There are 18 proposed support categories listed below:

- Assistance animals
- Assistive technology - Assets
- Assistive technology – Other
- Behaviour support
- Disability-related health supports – consumables
- Disability-related health supports - nursing
- Employment supports
- Home modifications
- In-home and community supports
- Interpreting and translation supports
- Medium term accommodation
- Plan management
- Private vehicle transport
- Short term accommodation
- Specialised driver training
- Specialist disability accommodation
- Support coordination
- Therapy supports

More information about each of these support categories can be found in Attachment 3 of the Consultation paper – New Framework Planning.

What the NDIS will not fund

The NDIS does not fund:

- everyday living costs (like food or bills)
- supports that are the responsibility of other systems (like health or education)
- items or services not related to your disability

How supports link to a plan

Under the proposed approach to new framework planning:

- disability support needs are assessed
- a reasonable and necessary budget is worked out based on needs
- participants use funding to access supports within the rules

There is more flexibility for participants to choose supports that work best for them

How to use funding

A NDIS plan may include flexible funding and stated support funding.

Flexible funding

Under the proposed arrangements, flexible funding would give participants more choice in how they use their budget.

They can:

- use funding across supports in the same category
- choose supports that best meet their needs
- adjust how funding is used over time

Participants must always use funding within NDIS supports rules and for disability-related supports.

Stated support funding

Stated support funding is for specific supports.

This means:

- funding must be used for a particular support
- it cannot be used for other supports

Stated support funding is used where a support requires specific approval or oversight, or where setting aside funding for a specific support helps ensure a participant can access supports they need.

What this means

These arrangements help participants:

- choose supports more flexibly where appropriate
- understand when funding must be used for a specific purpose
- use their plan with clearer rules and greater confidence

Examples

Flexible funding

Jordan has funding for supports to help with daily activities and getting out in the community.

They can choose how to use their funding across different supports in the same category. For example, they might use some funding for a support worker:

- to help at home, and
- help to attend community activities

If their disability support needs change, they can adjust how they use their funding as long as it follows the NDIS supports rules.

Stated support funding

Alex has funding for a specific item, such as a wheelchair.

This funding is stated in their plan and must be used for that purpose.
They cannot use this funding to purchase other supports.

This ensures funding is available to purchase the right support to meet their needs.