

Choice and control

December 2016

Information you need to know about managing your funding

To support participants to have choice and control over their NDIS plan, there is flexibility to ensure you can choose how to spend your funds to live the life you want.

How does this work?

An NDIS Plan has three support budgets (Core, Capital and Capacity Building) and you will receive reasonable and necessary funding under the relevant budget depending on your support needs.

What makes up the Core supports budget?

The Core support budget is made up of four support categories and the funding is flexible across all the categories.

These categories are:

- Daily activities

- Social, community and civic participation

- Consumables

- Transport only when managed by NDIA, Plan Management Agent or you are self-managed (excludes periodic transport payments).

For example: If you have a total 'Core' budget of \$14,000, you can choose how to spend this across the four support categories. For example, \$2,000 for consumables; \$7,000 for daily activities; \$1,000 for transport and \$4,000 for social activities, or you could choose \$9,000 for daily activities; \$1,000 for consumables; \$2,000 for transport and \$2,000 for social activities.

Is there any limitation within the Core support category?

You may have chosen to self-manage a proportion of your Core funding to support transport needs and receive this as an automatic periodic payment.

This transport funding is then quarantined and will be deposited into your bank account fortnightly.

For example: If you require more transport funding you can choose to use additional funds to complement your periodic transport payment from other support categories within your Core support budget. You can only choose additional funds for transport if this is managed by NDIA, Plan Management Agent or you are self-managed.

What makes up the Capital supports budget and is this flexible?

The Capital Support budget has two support categories:

Assistive Technology – includes items for mobility, personal care, communication and recreational inclusion such as wheelchairs, pressure mattresses, standing frames, bathing and toileting equipment, personal readers and vision equipment, and vehicle modifications

Home Modifications.

The funds in this budget are not flexible and can only be used for what they were allocated for, such as personal care equipment, a rail in the bathroom or a wheelchair.

What makes up the Capacity Building funding?

The Capacity Building (CB) funding is allocated across nine support categories with each category being aligned to your goals.

The support categories include:

- CB Daily Activity
- CB Choice and Control
- CB Employment
- CB Social Community and Civic Participation
- CB Health and Well Being
- CB Home Living
- CB Lifelong Learning
- CB Relationships
- Support Coordination.

Am I able to use my Capacity Building funding flexibly?

The funding within each of the nine support categories can be used flexibly to purchase any approved individual support that falls within that CB support category only, to assist you to achieve your identified goal. For example, you may initially decide to use 50% of CB Daily Activity on Occupational Therapy, 40% on Physiotherapy and 10% on Speech Pathology and decide at a later date to use more of your CB Daily Activity funding on speech pathology. This flexibility allows you to identify what you believe would be the best capacity building support to achieve your goal. However, you can't combine funding across multiple support categories. This is because each support category will align with a specific goal. For example, if you had a total budget for Capacity Building of \$2,500 made up of \$1,000 for CB Daily Activity and \$1,500 for CB Choice and Control, you can't decide to combine your funds to spend the total budget of \$2,500 on CB Daily Activity.

Are there any limitations to flexibility?

Funding flexibility is limited in the following ways:

- During your transition to the NDIS your existing provider may need to deliver some supports initially.
- Where you have chosen to self-manage a proportion of your Core funding to support transport needs and receive this as an automatic periodic payment.

- Where an individual support has been specified as a ‘Stated’ support. The funding allocated to this individual support can only be used for this support and is therefore not flexible funding.

How can I get help with this?

The person helping you to implement your plan can help you understand this more. That person might be a Local Area Coordinator or a Support Coordinator. They can also help you to work out how you would like to use your funding flexibility and help you to explain this to your service providers.

For more information about managing supports in your plan visit www.ndis.gov.au.

More information

www.ndis.gov.au

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TTY: 1800 555 677 Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727

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