



# A new way to work out how much funding you receive in your NDIS plan

Easy Read guide



**ndis**

[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

## How to use this guide



The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) wrote this guide. When you see the word 'we', it means the NDIA.



This guide is written in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.

**Bold**  
Not bold

We have written some words in **bold**. This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean. There is a list of these words on page 31.



This Easy Read guide is a summary of another guide.



You can find the other guide on our website at [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)



You can ask for help to read this guide. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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## What's this guide about?



We want to make the NDIS easier to use.

We also want to make sure it is:



- fair



- **consistent.**



When something is consistent, it is done the same way every time.



As part of this, we are planning on changing how we work out your **NDIS funding**.



NDIS funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.





We will not change how we work out your NDIS funding until we change the **NDIS Act**.



The NDIS Act is a law that explains how the NDIS works.



The Government must vote on any changes before the NDIS Act can change.



We wrote a paper about flexible NDIS plans and funding to find out what the community thought.



Many people told us they want the NDIS to work better.



But some people also told us changing the NDIS made them feel:

- unsure
- worried.



Many people told us they want to know more about how we plan to make decisions about funding.

On the following pages we explain these changes in more detail.

## NDIS plans



An **NDIS plan** is a document that includes information about:



- you and your goals



- what support you have now



- what support you need



- the funding the NDIS will give you.

Plans and funding support you to:



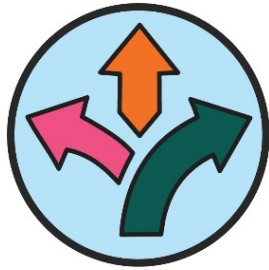
- work towards your goals



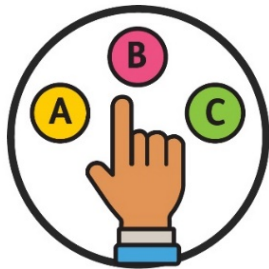
- pay for supports and services you need every day to live your life.



## Flexible funding



When something is **flexible**, it means you can use it in different ways.



If funding is more flexible, you can choose what services and supports best suit you.

At the moment funding has 3 budgets:



- Core Supports



- Capacity Building Supports



- Capital Supports.

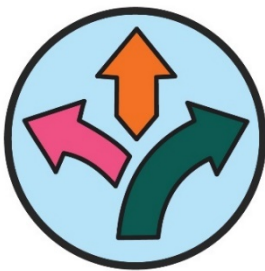


You can only use these budgets for set supports and services.

We want to change funding budgets to make them:



- easier to understand



- flexible for you to use in ways that meet your needs.

## What we want to change



**Personalised budgets** are a new way we can work out how much funding to put in your NDIS plan.



We will use information from your **independent assessment** to help make your personalised budget.



**Independent assessments** are a new way for the NDIA to get information about:

- how your disability affects your life
- what supports you need from the NDIS.



Independent assessments will give us information about your **functional capacity**.

Your functional capacity is:



- your ability to do something



- the skills you have



- how you manage everyday life.

Independent assessments will give us information about your life at:



- home



- other places, like school and work.



Independent assessments can also give us information when you reach a new stage of your life, like when you:



- finish school



- move out of home.



This means we can plan what supports you might need in the future.

## Why do we need personalised budgets?

We want to make sure you get the right funding for your:



- functional capacity



- support needs.

The way we work out your funding now:



- is not consistent



- does not use enough information about you.



At the moment, some people from different backgrounds who have the same needs get different budgets.

This might be because some people have more:



- support



- money.



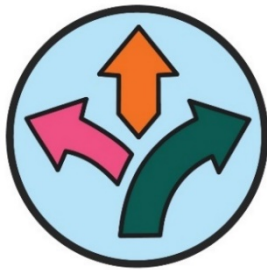
They can use this to get information they need for their plan.



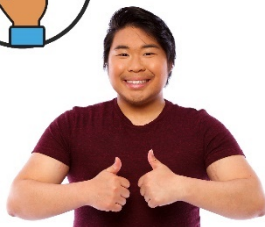
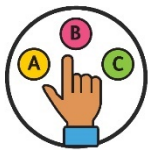
We also might not have enough information about what support some people get at home.



At the moment it can be hard to use your budgets to get the right support.



Funding needs to be more flexible.



If your funding is flexible, you can use it to choose what supports are right for you.



This is why we want to use personalised budgets.



Personalised budgets will help us make sure:



- your funding is fair



- our decisions about funding are consistent.



- you get more choice and control over the supports you use.

## How will personalised budgets work?



We will use personalised budgets when we make decisions about your funding.



We will use the information from your independent assessment when we create your personalised budget.

When we create your personalised budget, we will also think about:



- important things in your life, like where you live or work



- what supports you need



- what support you already get from family and friends.



When we have enough information, we will create a draft personalised budget.



Your draft personal budget will include a **flexible budget**.



A flexible budget is funding you can use for the different types of supports and services you need.



Most of your funding will be in your flexible budget.



Your draft personal budget might also include a **fixed budget**.



A fixed budget is funding for certain supports only.



Your **NDIA Planner** will check your draft budgets.



An NDIA Planner is someone who makes NDIS plans.

They might:



- change your funding



- add more funding if you need it for a certain support.



You will get to see your draft personalised budget before your planning meeting.

This gives you time to check your draft personalised budget to make sure it supports your:



- goals



- functional capacity.



This means you can talk about how you can use your plan to meet your needs at your planning meeting.



Your NDIA Planner will still make the final decision about your funding.

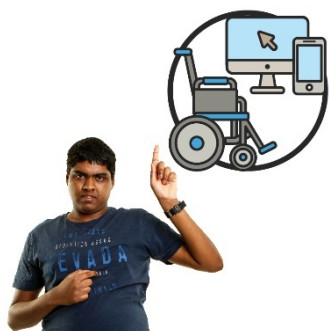
## When funding can't be worked out



Sometimes we won't get enough information to work out how much funding you need for certain supports and services.



When this happens, an NDIA planner will decide how much funding to put in your plan.



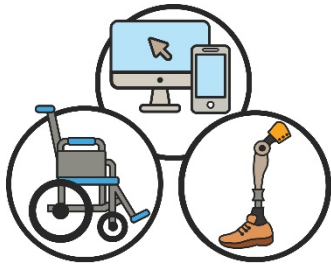
For example, your independent assessment results might say you need **assistive technology**.



Assistive technology can:

- make it easier to do things
- keep you safe.





Assistive technology might be:

- an aid or piece of equipment
- a system to use.



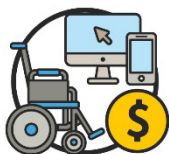
But we won't have enough information to work out how much funding you need for assistive technology.



This means your NDIA Planner might have to work out how much funding you need for assistive technology.



Your NDIA Planner might need to ask you for more information about the assistive technology you need.



This information will help them work out how much funding you need for assistive technology.

## Making your funding work for you



Personalised budgets will change how we make your plan.

This means your plan will focus on how you can:



- get the support you need



- work towards your goals.



And you can choose how you use your flexible budget.

## When will we start using personalised budgets?



We are still working on how we will create personalised budgets.



We are collecting information about people across Australia who already have an NDIS plan.



We will use this information to check if personalised budgets work well.



We are also testing how we use information from independent assessments to make draft personalised budgets.



We are still talking to people about changing the NDIS.



We won't change everything at once.



If we change the NDIS Act we will start using personalised budgets.

We will make sure you can get:



- support



- information



- funding you need for your supports.

## More information

For more information about personalised budgets, please contact us.



[www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au)



1800 800 110



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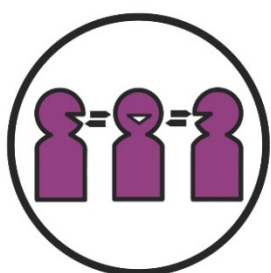
## Support to talk to us



You can talk to us online using our webchat feature.

[www.ndis.gov.au/webchat/start](http://www.ndis.gov.au/webchat/start)

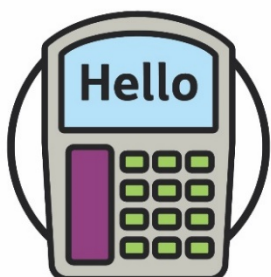
If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

**131 450**

If you have a speech or hearing impairment, you can call:



TTY

**1800 555 677**



Speak and Listen

**1800 555 727**



National Relay Service

**133 677**

[www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au)



## Word list

### Assistive technology

Assistive technology can:



- make it easier to do things
- keep you safe.

Assistive technology might be:

- an aid or piece of equipment
- a system to use.



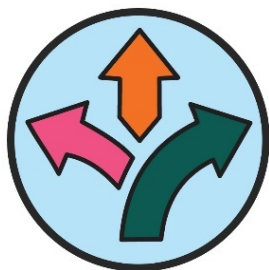
### Consistent

When something is consistent, it is done the same way every time.



### Fixed budget

A fixed budget is funding for certain supports only.



### Flexible

When something is flexible, it means you can use it in different ways.



### **Flexible budget**

A flexible budget is funding you can use for the different types of supports and services you need.



### **Functional capacity**

Your functional capacity is:

- your ability to do something
- the skills you have
- how you manage everyday life.



### **Independent assessment**

Independent assessments are a new way for the NDIA to get information about:

- how your disability affects your life
- what supports you need from the NDIS.



### **NDIA Planner**

An NDIA Planner is someone who makes new NDIS plans.



## **NDIS Act**

The NDIS Act is a law that explains how the NDIS works.



## **NDIS funding**

NDIS funding is the money from your plan that pays for the supports and services you need.

## **NDIS plan**

A NDIS plan is a document that includes information about:



- you and your goals
- what support you have now
- what support you need
- the funding the NDIS will give you.



## **Personalised budget**

Personalised budgets are a new way to help us work out how much funding you will get in your plan.



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