

Vehicle modifications and specialised driver training

Quick summary: Many of us rely on a car or other type of vehicle to get around. You might use it for work, to visit friends and family, or enjoy other activities. You may need changes made to a vehicle so you can drive it or travel in it. We call these vehicle modifications. If you need vehicle modifications because of your disability, we might be able to help. The vehicle would need to be yours or one you can use regularly.

We may also fund a specialised vehicle driving instructor so you can drive or learn how to use the modifications in your vehicle.

Note:

- When we say ‘your plan’, we mean your NDIS plan.
- As part of the recent changes to the NDIS laws we are moving towards a new framework for planning. Rules need to be developed for this new framework. We’re working on how and when we’ll introduce these changes.

Until then, the information in this Our Guideline is about our ‘old framework’ for planning, which includes the legislative changes that became operational when the law commenced. All current plans will be known as ‘old framework’ plans, and we will continue to develop these until all participants have transitioned to the new framework.

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What do we mean by vehicle modifications and specialised driver training?

Vehicle modifications

When we talk about vehicle modifications, we mean changes to a vehicle so you can drive, access or travel in it safely. Vehicle modification supports don't include buying or leasing a vehicle.

You or a family member need to own the vehicle or have found a vehicle you plan to buy or lease. If you don't own the vehicle, you'll need to be able to use it regularly and have permission from its owner to modify it.

Learn more about [what vehicle modifications we may fund](#).

Specialised driver training

When we talk about specialised driver training, we mean training with a specialised vehicle driving instructor so you can drive your vehicle. We also mean training to use special equipment or changes made to a vehicle so you can drive or travel in it safely.

Vehicle modifications and specialised driver training are two NDIS supports we may include in your plan to help you:

- get to places you need to go and to the people you want to see
- become as independent as possible
- travel to work or activities.

We'll only consider these NDIS supports if they relate to the things you can and can't do because of your disability. This means that without these supports, you wouldn't be able to drive a vehicle or travel in it safely as a passenger.

Before we can decide if these supports meet the [NDIS funding criteria](#) for you, we need evidence or an assessment from your driver-trained occupational therapist.

Learn more about the evidence we need in [How do you get vehicle modifications and specialised driver training in your plan.](#)

What vehicle modifications and specialised driver training do we fund?

The laws for the NDIS determine what we can and can't fund. Things we can fund are called NDIS supports. You can use the funding in your plan to buy NDIS supports if they're related to your disability and are in-line with your plan.¹

Learn more about [What does NDIS fund?](#)

Types of vehicle modifications we fund

Vehicle modifications that are NDIS supports include changes to a vehicle so you can drive it or be a passenger in it. This might include fitting assistive technology such as:

- passenger and wheelchair hoists
- modified controls
- modified restraints and modified car seats.

We may fund other related vehicle modification supports, including:

- assessing, trialling and adjusting a vehicle modification
- extra insurance costs because of the modifications to your vehicle
- an engineering certificate or authorisation report you need to register a vehicle with modifications
- maintenance, spare parts and consumable items related to a vehicle modification
- help with your transport needs while your vehicle is fitted with modifications
- removing modifications from an old vehicle and fitting them to a new vehicle
- maintenance or repair of the modifications. This includes insurance excess payments where there's been damage to vehicle modifications we've funded in your plan
- inspection for a vehicle condition report for a vehicle older than 5 years and no longer under warranty. This is to confirm it's safe and reliable for daily use, and suitable to modify.

Under the laws for the NDIS, there are things we can't fund. This includes:

- standard vehicle registration, insurance or running costs. For example, servicing, or general repairs to the vehicle

- buying or leasing a vehicle. This includes motor vehicles, motorbikes, watercraft, all-terrain vehicles, standard bikes and scooters and other recreational vehicles
- petrol, diesel or gas
- adaptors or electricity costs for electric vehicles
- installation of extra seats for transporting family and friends
- costs to upgrade a commercial vehicle to a passenger grade vehicle such as installation of windows, air conditioning and roof insulation or lining
- changes to public vehicles, such as buses or taxis
- high cost modifications, if it's been less than 8 years since the last modifications were made, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Types of specialised driver training supports we fund

NDIS supports related to specialised driver training include:²

- a driver-trained occupational therapist assessment and a driving instructor for the on-road part of the assessment, if you plan to drive the vehicle
- driver training with a specialised driving instructor
- training on how to use adaptive equipment or vehicle modifications.

Driving supports that we can't fund include:

- driving supervision or driving lessons for you to make up practice hours to get your driver's licence.

How do we decide what vehicle modifications and specialised driver training to include in your plan?

We can only include NDIS supports in your plan if they meet all the [NDIS funding criteria](#).³

The following questions are a good starting point to work out what we can fund. Are the vehicle modifications and specialised driver training:

- [related to your disability?](#)⁴
- [going to help you pursue your goals?](#)⁵
- [effective and beneficial for you?](#)⁶
- [value for money?](#)⁷
- [legal and safe?](#)⁸

Are the vehicle modifications related to your disability?

You may need extra support to use a car or other type of vehicle because of your disability. We can only fund vehicle modifications if they're related to your disability support needs. This means you'll have to pay for some things yourself like the vehicle itself, registration, standard insurance, and running costs, like fuel.⁹ These are costs that everyone who has a vehicle needs to pay, whether or not they have a disability.

Learn more about [types of vehicle modifications we fund](#).

Example

Hayden uses a wheelchair to get around and do everyday things. Hayden's family are finding it hard to safely move him from his wheelchair into the booster seat of their car and lift his wheelchair into the van. They want to get their van modified for wheelchair access. They also want modifications to include a fold down rear seat. This would mean they have enough seats in their van for their extended family and friends to travel with them.

We may be able to fund modifications so that Hayden can be transported in the family van in his wheelchair. We can't fund the fold down rear seat because this isn't related to Hayden's disability.

Will the vehicle modifications help you pursue your goals?

You may have a goal to get involved in sport or social activities or go to work. We'll look at all the ways you might be able to pursue those goals. Funding vehicle modifications could be one way.

Learn more about [setting goals](#).

Example

Chen has a goal to do a course at TAFE. He's enrolled in his course and will need to go to TAFE 5 days a week. He has bought a car to help him travel to and from TAFE. He needs the car because there isn't any suitable public transport.

He'll need hand controls fitted to the car. This is because he can't operate the pedals due to his disability. We know that providing Chen with this support will help him pursue his goal. We can fund the hand controls if they meet all the [NDIS funding criteria](#) and have been recommended by a driver trained occupational therapist.

Will the vehicle modifications and specialised driver training be effective and beneficial for you?

We need to know the vehicle modifications and specialised driver training will be effective and beneficial for you.¹⁰ This means the modifications and training will do what you need

them to do. They'll help you do things you can't do, or help you keep doing the things you can currently do.

We may fund a suitably qualified assessor to talk to you about your transport needs. They'll explore and try different options with you, for example:

- how you'll get in and out of the vehicle
- how you'll get any mobility equipment in the vehicle
- what help you may need getting mobility equipment out of the vehicle.

For more information about getting a vehicle modification assessment, go to [How do you get vehicle modifications and specialised driver training in your plan?](#)

You'll need a driver-trained occupational therapist if the modifications are specific to how you'll drive the vehicle. They'll work with you and assess your needs, including all the things you need to get your driver's licence.

A driver trained occupational therapist has extra qualifications to assess the task of driving, by looking at how you use your vision, body and thinking to drive. If you've had vehicle modifications in the past, but your driving ability has changed, they'll check whether the modifications need to be changed.

Will the vehicle modifications be value for money?

Vehicle modifications must be value for money.¹¹ This means the modifications must be a good use of money in terms of:

- the benefits you'll get from them
- the cost of other supports that would achieve the same outcome.

We need to know it'll be cost effective to modify your vehicle. To work this out, we look at:

- whether the vehicle is suitable to be modified
- the age of the vehicle
- whether the vehicle is under warranty
- the cost of the modifications
- how often you'll use the vehicle
- how long the modified vehicle is likely to last
- whether the modifications could be removed and installed in another vehicle if you need to replace your vehicle
- whether the vehicle will need a unique engineering solution

- whether the modifications are the best way to meet your long-term transport or driving needs
- whether your transport needs could be met in a less costly way using other supports. For example, funding to use on assistive technology and training to more easily use public transport services, such as buses
- whether your needs will change over time, and the use you'll get out of the proposed modifications
- for children who need vehicle modifications, whether the changes will still work for them as they get older
- if you're the driver, whether the modifications will help you to better manage accessing the community by yourself
- if you have a progressive condition, whether the modifications will still work for you in the future as your needs change.

You need to get advice from a [suitably qualified assessor](#) about any modifications. Sometimes you'll also need an engineering certificate or authorisation report from a licensed vehicle modifier or certifier. This will need to tell us about:

- the condition of your vehicle
- how suitable your vehicle is to have changes made to it.

How old is your vehicle and is it under warranty?

We'll look at the age, type, and warranty of your vehicle. Vehicles up to 5 years old, or older if they're still under manufacturer's warranty, are generally suitable to have changes made to them. We may ask you to give us a copy of the warranty details to confirm this.

Most vehicles suitable for modifications have manufacturer warranties for at least 5 years and cover unlimited kilometres. You should check what warranty applies to your vehicle. The warranty might be based only on kilometres or be for less than 5 years. This might be the case if you buy your vehicle second hand and it hasn't been properly maintained.

For older vehicles that are no longer under warranty, you'll need to organise a vehicle condition report.

The vehicle condition report will need to confirm:

- your vehicle is legal and safe to be on the road
- any parts of the vehicle with signs of wear and tear which are likely to need replacing in the short to medium term

- what the next major service will likely include and the estimated cost to you if all the recommended parts are replaced.

You can get a vehicle condition report from your state or territory motoring organisation. To arrange a vehicle condition report, contact your state or territory motoring organisation:

- New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory - [NRMA](#)
- Victoria - [RACV](#)
- Queensland - [RACQ](#)
- South Australia - [RAA](#)
- Western Australia - [RAC](#)
- Tasmania - [RACT](#)
- Northern Territory - [AANT](#)

Generally, it's not value for money to make significant modifications to vehicles that are older than 10 years.

You may be able to remove the modifications from an older vehicle and use them in another vehicle. For example, a swing out seat, hand control or wheelchair hoist can often be moved.

You may decide you want a different vehicle after your vehicle has been modified and want the modification moved to the alternative vehicle. If it's been less than 5 years since we funded the modification you would have to pay for it to be re-installed.

Modifications usually last 8-10 years. We keep this in mind when we think about:

- the overall condition of your vehicle
- whether the modifications would be value for money.

We'll usually think about replacement vehicle modifications every 8 years or where they need to be replaced due to wear and tear. We might consider them earlier if there's been major changes to your disability support needs.

Example

Jasmin has been using a modified van for over 15 years, and the van recently reached the end of its working life. She's bought a new van and wants us to fund changes to it so she can travel as a front row passenger.

Jasmin gives us a quote which says the front passenger wheelchair conversion will cost around \$50,000. Jasmin's request meets all our [NDIS funding criteria](#), except it's not value for money. It would only cost around \$30,000 to do a conversion for her to sit in the second-row location instead.

We recognise Jasmin may prefer to travel in the front row, but we can't fund the front row conversion. We recognise the second row conversion meets all the [NDIS funding criteria](#) and include this funding in Jasmin's plan. Jasmin can still use the funding to get the front row conversion done if she wants to pay for the rest herself – it's her choice.

Are the vehicle modifications an NDIS support?

Your state or territory government, local council, and other organisations have a responsibility to support you with transport options. These include changes to remove barriers you may face because of your disability. This is to make sure you receive the same services as everyone else. These are called [reasonable adjustments](#).

Examples of reasonable adjustments that can be made to help you use the transport system are:

- accessible taxis
- accessible (lowering) buses
- help to access trains (driver provision of portable ramp)
- ramps and stairway lifts to train, tram, ferry, or bus platforms
- tactile paths so you can feel your way around
- automatic doors.

For example, many councils have buses that people in the community can use. Many of these buses have had reasonable adjustments made to them. This means most people with a disability can use them.

We wouldn't pay for modifications to a community bus.¹² Your local council would fund this under their community transport program. If your council doesn't provide community transport, they may have a disability inclusion officer you can talk to. You can ask the disability inclusion officer about the reasonable adjustments made by the council.

The laws for the NDIS determine what we can and can't fund. Things we can fund are called NDIS supports. We can't fund modifications to a public vehicle because this is not an NDIS support.

The Australian Government provides funding through the [Employment Assistance Fund](#) to cover the costs of making workplace changes so you can do your job. As part of this, the Employment Assistance Fund can help with modifications to vehicles used for work purposes.

We won't fund vehicle modifications if funding is available through the employment assistance fund to cover these modifications.

Your my NDIS contact or support coordinator can help you to find other supports in the community.

Are the vehicle modifications legal and safe?

We can only fund vehicle modifications that are legal and safe for you to use. We can't fund a support if it's likely to cause harm to you or others.¹³

The vehicle modifications must be legal in the state or territory where you live and where the vehicle is registered. We can't fund supports that are against the law.¹⁴

It's your responsibility to get advice on whether the modifications are legal and safe for you. Most assistive technology used in vehicles is higher risk. People can be injured by these items when they're not used or set up correctly.

For more information about what you need to do before you buy your assistive technology and what we mean by risk, refer to [Our Guideline – Assistive technology](#).

You can also refer to our factsheet [Understanding assistive technology evidence, advice, assessments and quotes](#).

Structural, restraint or control modifications to new or second-hand vehicles

For modifications to a new or second hand vehicle, we need to know the vehicle and modifications you want are safe and appropriate for you.

To do this, you'll need to give us evidence or a [Vehicle Modification assessment template](#) from your driver-trained occupational therapist or suitably qualified assessor. This will let us know what modifications you need and how they'll work for you.

We also need to know:

- you'll be able to register the vehicle with your state or territory government once the modifications are complete
- you'll be able to give us an engineering certificate or authorisation report from a licensed vehicle modifier or certifier (to permit registration with the transport authority) when the modifications are complete.

The engineering certificate or authorisation report must confirm your vehicle will comply with safety requirements in your state or territory if it has the proposed modifications completed. It will also need to confirm the modifications meet the [Australian standards and rules](#) relevant in your state or territory. We'll fund this engineering certificate or authorisation report. You shouldn't make a final payment for any vehicle modifications until you receive the certificate or report.

Existing imported or factory fitted modifications

We need to know that any vehicle modifications already installed in a vehicle, or modifications that are factory fitted in an imported vehicle, are legal, safe, and appropriate for you. Foreign imported vehicles that are factory fitted with modifications may not meet Australian standards for vehicle registration.

To confirm these modifications are legal and safe for you, you'll need to give us:

- evidence or a [Vehicle Modification assessment template](#) from your occupational therapist or suitably qualified assessor. This will explain what modifications you need and how they'll work for you
- an engineering certificate or authorisation report from a licensed vehicle modifier or certifier, before we can decide whether to fund your vehicle modification supports.

The engineering certificate or authorisation report must confirm the modifications meet [Australian standards and rules](#) relevant in your state or territory. You'll need to fund this, unless a valid certificate or report is already available.

You can find out more about what you need to do to register modified vehicles with the registration authority for your state or territory. When you register your vehicle, you'll need to give your registration authority a copy of the engineering certificate or authorisation report. Your licensed vehicle modifier will give you the certificate or report.

Are you buying a second-hand vehicle that has already been modified?

We can't pay for the value of the car itself. We can only pay for the value of the disability-related vehicle modifications that are already in place.

We'll need to know:

- the vehicle is, or can be, registered in your state or territory
- how long ago the modifications were made and how long they are likely to last
- whether there's a manufacturer's warranty in place for the vehicle and modifications, and how long this will last
- whether the vehicle modifications will need changes to meet your needs
- whether the modifications meet the relevant [Australian standards and rules](#)
- the cost of the original changes, where available, compared to the cost of making new changes.

You'll need to give us:

- evidence or an assessment from your occupational therapist. This will need to tell us the changes already made to the vehicle are safe for you and will suit your needs. Your driver-trained occupational therapist can complete our [Vehicle Modification assessment template](#) to give us the information we need
- an engineering certificate or authorisation report from a licensed vehicle modifier or certifier that provides information about the condition of the changes made. The certificate or report must tell us the changes are legal, safe, in good working order, and meet the [Australian standards and rules](#) relevant in your state or territory
- a vehicle condition report, if the vehicle is older than 5 years and no longer under warranty.

For more information, go to [How old is your vehicle and is it under warranty?](#)

Once we have this information, we'll work out the current value of the modifications. We won't pay the full cost of the modifications, because they've already been used by someone else, are older and have lost value.

We calculate funding depending on how long ago the modifications were made, and how much the value of the modifications has reduced since this time. This is called depreciation.

Remember, we fund NDIS supports that relate to your disability.¹⁵ Every NDIS support we fund also needs to meet all the [NDIS funding criteria](#). Just because a second hand vehicle with modifications may be cheaper, it may not always be good value for money or meet the other criteria.

Example

Janette needs a modified vehicle. She works with her occupational therapist to identify the disability-related vehicle modifications and vehicle type she needs.

Janette then finds a second-hand vehicle that has the modifications she needs. Janette gives us evidence from her occupational therapist that the modifications meet her disability-related needs and are safe. This includes a list of the minimum modifications, a detailed assessment, and information about her successful trial of the car.

Janette also gets information about the vehicle's age, warranty, and condition. Janette asks the current vehicle owner about the cost of the original modifications. She gets an authorisation report from a licensed vehicle modifier confirming the modifications meet Australian standards and rules. We can then work out the current value of the modifications to include in Janette's plan.

How do you get vehicle modifications and specialised driver training in your plan?

We'll look at vehicle modifications together with all of your transport needs and think about the best funded supports for your circumstances. Funding for vehicle modifications may reduce your need for other supports, for example transport funding.

You may not have previously owned or leased a modified vehicle but believe it may help you pursue your goals. If so, you can request funding to explore what vehicle modification supports you need.

To decide if we'll include funding to explore vehicle modification options in your plan, we need evidence or an assessment. This will usually come from your allied health provider or medical practitioner (GP) and tells us about your need for modified transport.

Refer to our factsheet [Understanding assistive technology evidence, advice, assessments and quotes](#).

If you're planning to drive the modified vehicle, your medical practitioner should also check you're fit to drive, using the national [Assessing Fitness to Drive](#) medical standard.

Before we can decide if your vehicle modifications meet the [NDIS funding criteria](#), we need evidence or an assessment from your occupational therapist. If you want to drive the vehicle, this needs to be from a driver-trained occupational therapist. The evidence or assessment should answer the questions in [What vehicle modifications do we fund?](#)

The evidence or assessment should also tell us what new modifications may be needed. Or for existing modifications made to a second hand car, it should confirm the modifications are safe for you and suit your needs. We have a [vehicle modification assessment template](#) your driver-trained occupational therapist can complete.

We'll also need to know either:

- you own the vehicle
- you plan to buy or lease the vehicle
- if you don't own the vehicle, its owner agrees in writing that the modifications can be made, and you can use the vehicle for your transport needs.

If you're planning to buy a second hand vehicle that is older than 5 years and no longer under warranty, we'll need a vehicle condition report. A licensed vehicle modifier or certifier needs to provide this report. The report should provide the details outlined in [How old is your vehicle and is it under warranty?](#)

If the vehicle already has modifications that suit your needs, the report must describe these modifications, and confirm:

- they meet the [Australian standards and rules](#) relevant in your state or territory
- how old they are, and how much longer they are likely to last.

If the modifications are being made to your vehicle, the report will need to:

- confirm the vehicle is suitable to have modifications made to it
- provide details of all the proposed modifications
- confirm that when the modifications are completed, they'll meet the [Australian standards and rules](#) relevant in your state or territory
- include any cost to get the engineering certificate or authorisation report for registration in your state or territory.

Vehicle modifications are a type of assistive technology. You always need to get advice before you buy any assistive technology. But the type of evidence or assessment you need will depend on whether the assistive technology is low cost, mid cost, or high cost.

How do we fund vehicle modifications and specialised driver training?

We make decisions about including vehicle modifications in your plan based on the cost of the item. We need different evidence from you to help us decide if the vehicle modifications meet the [NDIS funding criteria](#), depending on the cost of the item.

We put the cost of vehicle modifications into 3 assistive technology categories:

- low cost assistive technology: under \$1,500 per item
- mid cost assistive technology: \$1,500 to \$15,000 per item
- high cost assistive technology: over \$15,000 per item.

We generally fund the basic level of vehicle modifications you need based on your disability support needs. We can't fund non-standard equipment or extra items that don't meet the [NDIS funding criteria](#).

You can also pay extra from your own money if you want:

- a particular brand or model of an item
- special features not related to your disability support needs, like an extra car seat for family and friends
- a particular design.

Learn more about low cost, mid cost and high cost assistive technology in [How do you get vehicle modifications in your plan?](#)

Low cost assistive technology

If you need low cost assistive technology for your vehicle, you need to talk with your occupational therapist about what you need. Low cost assistive technology for your car or vehicle is generally an item that is:

- under \$1,500
- available to buy immediately
- authorised for use in a motor vehicle.

Learn more about [funding for low cost assistive technology](#).

Do you need help to transfer in and out of a vehicle?

You may need a piece of equipment that's low cost and available to buy immediately to help with vehicle transfer. Usually, this type of equipment only needs minor adjustments or general training. This could include things like basic transfer equipment such as a:

- handy bar car handle
- swivel disc
- car transfer pad.

If you only need low cost standard equipment, you won't need to get an assessment and quotes. However, you need to talk with your occupational therapist about any type of equipment you need related to transport.

If the equipment meets the [NDIS funding criteria](#), we'll include funding for the equipment in your plan.

You can talk to your my NDIS contact or support coordinator for more information.

Example

Leanne is having difficulty getting in and out of the driver's seat. She contacts her occupational therapist who suggests a turning seat cushion and a handy bar.

The occupational therapist explains how to use these items and tests them with Leanne. The equipment makes it easy for Leanne to get in and out of the driver's seat, so she buys the items using her low cost consumables budget. Getting these items means Leanne doesn't need to modify her vehicle, so she doesn't have to get an engineering certificate.

Mid cost assistive technology

If you need a vehicle modification that costs between \$1,500 and \$15,000, you'll need to talk with your occupational therapist about what you need. You may not need an itemised quote, but it's useful to give it to us if you have one. You always need to get advice and evidence

for mid cost assistive technology. Refer to the evidence requirements in [How can you get mid cost assistive technology in your plan?](#)

You can also refer to our factsheet [Understanding assistive technology evidence, advice, assessments and quotes](#).

High cost assistive technology

For modifications over \$15,000 you'll need to give us an itemised quote. Sometimes we might need a second quote to compare provider costs for similar modifications or to check the items are value for money. The quote will need to tell us how much it will cost for the new modifications or to transfer existing modifications to your vehicle.

You'll need to follow the evidence requirements in [How can you get high cost assistive technology in your plan?](#) You can also refer to our factsheet [Understanding assistive technology evidence, advice, assessments and quotes](#).

For vehicles with existing modifications, we need evidence the modified vehicle will be [safe and appropriate for you](#).

If the vehicle is currently registered in your state or territory, you can give us a copy of the current registration certificate and the engineering certificate or authorisation report for the modifications. The report from the licensed vehicle modifier may also include this information.

Will you be driving the vehicle?

If you're going to be driving the vehicle, we need to know you have a suitable driver's licence. If you don't have a licence yet, we'll need to know it's likely you're able to get one. This means you'll need to get a:

- GP to assess your ability using the national [Assessing Fitness to Drive](#) medical standards. This isn't generally funded by the NDIS
- driver trained occupational therapist or your state or territory licensing authority to do a driving assessment with you. We may be able to fund this assessment, including a driving instructor for the on-road part.

What happens once you have funding for vehicle modifications and specialised driver training in your plan?

Once you have funding for vehicle modifications or other supports included in your plan, you can start using these supports. Talk to your my NDIS contact or support coordinator about the next steps.

You can also refer to [What do you need to do before you buy your assistive technology?](#) and our factsheet [Understanding assistive technology evidence, advice, assessments and quotes](#).

Your funding will be in different budgets in your plan, depending on the type of support.

If you have any questions, please [contact us](#). If your needs change, remember you can talk to us at any time or ask for a change to your plan. Learn more about [changing your plan](#).

Funding to explore vehicle modifications and specialised driver training

If you have funding to explore what vehicle modification supports you need, this means you can get help from a suitably qualified assessor to:

- help you trial the equipment you need to make sure it's the best fit for your needs
- recommend equipment that will meet your needs
- give us evidence or an assessment and quotes if you need high cost vehicle modifications.

If a low cost assistive technology solution will help with your vehicle access needs, your assessor or advisor can help you:

- choose and buy the right equipment once the funding has been approved
- set up the equipment
- learn how to use the equipment.

Funding for low cost assistive technology

If your vehicle is older than 5 years and no longer under warranty, you can also use this funding for one inspection for a vehicle condition report. This will confirm your vehicle is safe and reliable for daily use, and suitable to modify.

Although you can buy some low cost equipment without an assessment from your occupational therapist, you need to get their advice for your safety.

However, there are some types of low cost equipment that legally require a driver-trained occupational therapy assessment. For example, manual spinner knobs are low cost, but you need a driver-trained occupational therapist assessment to make sure they are safe and appropriate for you.

You can give us a copy of any written advice you get. You don't need further approvals from us to get low cost assistive technology based on your occupational therapist's advice if you have funds in your budget.

You can refer to our factsheet [Understanding assistive technology evidence, advice, assessments and quotes](#).

Funding for mid and high cost vehicle modifications

If you have funding for mid and high cost vehicle modifications, we'll specify this in your plan. You may also receive funding for repair and maintenance of your vehicle modifications.

Instructions and guidance for you and your carers to use any new modifications is usually provided by the licensed vehicle modifier. If you need more detailed training from a driver-trained occupational therapist, funding will be included in your plan.

Funding for extra insurance costs

If you have funding to help with extra insurance costs because of your vehicle modifications, we'll specify this in your plan.

What happens if your vehicle modification costs change?

Sometimes the amount of funding you need for your vehicle modifications or specialised driver training may change after your funding is approved. We can consider increasing the funding in your plan if:

- the support is not available at the same cost as expected in the plan¹⁶
- the support is not available in the same way expected in the plan¹⁷
- there is extra, unexpected information needed for the support to be provided, such as quotes, assessments, services or materials.¹⁸

To find out more about changing your plan for a minor variation, go to [Changing your plan](#).

What if you don't agree with our decision?

If we decide vehicle modifications aren't a reasonable and necessary support for you, we can't include them in your plan.

We'll give you written reasons why we made the decision. You can [contact us](#) if you'd like more detail about the reasons for our decision.

If you don't agree with a decision we make about vehicle modifications, you can ask for an internal review of our decision.¹⁹

You'll need to ask for an internal review within 3 months of getting your plan.²⁰

Learn more about [reviewing our decisions](#).

Reference list

- ¹ NDIS Act s 34(1)(f).
- ² NDIS (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1)(NDIS Supports) Transitional Rules 2024 sch 1 item 30.
- ³ NDIS Act s 34(1).
- ⁴ NDIS Act s 34(1)(aa).
- ⁵ NDIS Act s 34(1)(a).
- ⁶ NDIS Act s 34(1)(d).
- ⁷ NDIS Act s 34(1)(c).
- ⁸ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 5.1(a).
- ⁹ NDIS (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1)(NDIS Supports) Transitional Rules 2024 sch 2 items 2,6.
- ¹⁰ NDIS Act s34(1)(d).
- ¹¹ NDIS Act s 34(1)(c).
- ¹² NDIS (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1)(NDIS Supports) Transitional Rules 2024 sch 2 item 20.
- ¹³ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 5.1(a).
- ¹⁴ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 5.3(a).
- ¹⁵ NDIS Act s10.
- ¹⁶ NDIS (Variation and Reassessment of Participants' Plans) Rules r 5.7(a).
- ¹⁷ NDIS (Variation and Reassessment of Participants' Plans) Rules r 5.7(b).
- ¹⁸ NDIS (Variation and Reassessment of Participants' Plans) Rules r 5.7(c).
- ¹⁹ NDIS Act s 100.
- ²⁰ NDIS Act s 100(2).