

Work and study

Quick summary: you should talk to us if you think you might need extra support to work or while you're studying because of your disability. Your my NDIS contact, support coordinator or psychosocial recovery coach (recovery coach) can help.

This guideline has information on how we make decisions about the NDIS supports we can fund for work and while you're studying.

Note: when we say 'your plan' we mean your NDIS plan. If you're looking for information about Community Connections, go to [Our Guideline – Community Connections](#).

If you're looking for information about your child's early connections, go to [Our Guideline – Early Connections](#).

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You might also be interested in:

- [Mainstream and community supports](#)
- [Assistive Technology](#).

What do we mean by support while studying?

When we talk about supports while studying, we mean the extra support you need because of your disability to participate in:

- study at school. School means primary and secondary education that everyone needs to do

- study at a tertiary education provider. Tertiary education means higher education at a university, TAFE or Registered Training Organisation. This can include traineeships and apprenticeships.

Most people can get the help they need through their school, or tertiary education provider. Talk to your school or tertiary education provider if you need support while studying or need help to work out what you want to study.

We can fund the NDIS supports you need to study because of your disability if they meet all the [NDIS funding criteria](#). These are the extra supports that aren't directly related to your education and learning and are more than what the school or tertiary education provider is responsible for.¹²

NDIS supports while you're at school

Your school should provide all that is part of your education and learning. They must also make reasonable adjustments so that school is accessible for you. This is to help you take part in education the same as someone without a disability.³

For example, the school is responsible for:

- adjusting your study resources so you can understand the information
- making sure you can get into and around your school safely
- making sure you have the same opportunities as other students to fully participate in class and other school activities.

What can we fund?

We can fund additional specialist training for your teachers about your individual disability support needs. We can also fund NDIS supports you need at school due to your disability.⁴

You might have [personal care in school](#) included in your plan. This is for things like helping you go to the toilet, eating or drinking when you're at school. These NDIS supports are funded differently. Providers are paid a lump sum and then deliver the pre-paid supports to NDIS participants. You'll see the supports on your plan, but you won't buy them with funds from your plan. We refer to this as [in-kind](#) support.

We might be able to fund [transport to and from school](#) if you can't catch the bus because of your disability, or if we wouldn't expect your family to take you. You don't need to pay for transport costs out of your plan. Your pre-paid transport supports will appear on your plan to show that you get that support. Student transport is also funded through [in-kind arrangements](#) and provided by your state or territory government.

What can't we fund?

Some examples of things we don't fund are:⁵

- fees and payments for outside school hours care. This includes out of school hours care, vacation and school holiday programs
- education and tuition fees across all education settings
- standard school uniforms, shoes, lunchboxes, drink bottles, or other school equipment
- personalised learning or supports for students that primarily relate to their educational achievement
- aids and equipment for educational purposes. For example, modified computer hardware, education software, textbooks in alternative formats
- assistive products which are fixed or non-transportable in schools that allow a student access to education. For example, hoists and specially adapted furniture
- reasonable adjustment to education campuses that allow a student access to education, including capital works. For example, ramps, lifts, or hearing loops
- services from a person employed at the participant's school by the [Department of Education](#) or other relevant authority
- tutors and scribes
- educational supports for home schooling
- school refusal programs
- school camp, incursion and excursion fees
- transport between school activities including excursions and sporting carnivals
- work experience provided as part of the school curriculum.

Work experience

Work experience as part of your school curriculum is the responsibility of your school. We may be able to help if you need NDIS supports because of your disability to:

- be able to participate in work experience
- take part in additional work experience outside of the school curriculum.

School-based traineeship

You might have an opportunity to do a school-based traineeship. This is where you combine school, study and work. We can't fund supports that are the responsibility of your employer,

school or traineeship provider. But if there are NDIS supports you need to help you successfully complete your traineeship, we can fund those.

There's more information on the support available to help students build skills for work at [NDIS supports while preparing for work](#).

NDIS supports while at a tertiary education provider

Your tertiary education provider must provide reasonable adjustments or changes to your study resources so that information is provided in a way that you'll understand. They're also responsible for making sure you can get into and around your campus. This is to help you take part in education the same as someone without a disability.⁶

What can we fund?

We can consider funding the NDIS supports you need because of your disability at your tertiary education provider, during an apprenticeship or other training. The NDIS supports should allow you to go about your daily activities.⁷

This might include:

- help to connect to the learning supports available through the tertiary education provider
- personal care while you're undertaking tertiary education, approved placements, or taking part in specific projects run by the tertiary education provider
- transport to and from tertiary education if you can't drive or use public transport because of your disability
- training of university lecturers, trainers or host employers (during placements) about your individual disability support needs.

What can't we fund?

Some examples of things we can't fund include:⁸

- education or tuition fees across all tertiary education settings
- supports (including assistive products) for students that primarily relate to their education and training
- building modifications to tertiary education settings
- services from a person employed for educational purposes by the participant's tertiary education provider
- personalised learning or supports for students that primarily relate to their educational achievement

- assistive products which are fixed or non-transportable in tertiary education settings that enable a student or trainee to access education or training, including hoists and specially adapted furniture
- textbooks and teaching aids, including in alternative formats such as braille or Easy English
- education and training to facilitate transition to employment generally provided in tertiary education settings.

We also can't fund NDIS supports where:

- you're not likely to benefit or get an outcome from the support
- you withdraw from the course or are expelled due to misconduct.

There are lots of different support programs available at tertiary education providers. For example, mentors and other help for students with disability. For more information, go to [Our Guideline – Mainstream and community supports](#), or talk to your my NDIS contact, support coordinator or recovery coach.

We may be able to provide NDIS supports if you need additional assistance finding employment when you finish a qualification or to connect with a mainstream employment service. There's more information available at [NDIS supports while preparing for work](#).

Example

Anton has just finished school and is excited to start studying at university. Anton isn't familiar with the university or what it's like to be a university student. He uses a wheelchair and isn't familiar with accessible transport routes. He has been talking with his local area coordinator about what supports he may need. Anton thinks he'll need help to go over the information in lectures more than once and extra time to do exams.

Anton's planner includes NDIS supports to help him to explore accessible transport routes to get to university and connect with the Disability Services Team at the university. The Disability Services Team at his university will work with Anton to understand his learning support needs. They'll make sure the appropriate assistance is in place to help with recordings of lectures and extra time to complete exams. They'll also check the campus and learning environment is physically accessible for Anton.

When Anton is further into his course, he decides he would benefit from work experience in his chosen area of study, in addition to the formal practical experience arranged by the university. He is hoping this could allow him to understand any impacts his disability may have on his future employment, and adjustments or supports he may need in his chosen field. He also hopes it leads to part-time employment while he completes his studies and

gains his qualification. Anton speaks to his my NDIS contact to work out what NDIS supports he'll need to complete more work experience.

How do we decide if supports while studying meet the NDIS funding criteria?

All NDIS supports we fund must meet the [NDIS funding criteria](#). This includes that it's an NDIS support for you.

Ask yourself the questions below. They can help you think about whether we can consider funding NDIS supports while you're studying.

Is the support while studying an NDIS support for you?

A support while studying will be an NDIS support for you if either:

- the NDIS laws say that the support is an NDIS support for everyone
- the NDIS laws say that the support is only for a specific group of people and you're part of that group.⁹

NDIS supports are the services, items and equipment that can be funded under the NDIS.

Your school or tertiary education provider is responsible for providing you with a safe place to study. They should make changes to remove any barriers that stop you from taking part in education on the same basis as someone without a disability.

We can't fund supports that are better funded or provided through another program or service, like schools and universities. We call these 'mainstream supports' because they're provided by mainstream services. Mainstream supports are available to other Australians and are not just for people with a disability.¹⁰

We can help you work out where to get the help you need. Talk to your my NDIS contact, support coordinator or recovery coach.

Is the support while studying related to your disability support needs?

We'll only fund the extra support you need because of your disability. This means there must be a direct link between your disability support needs and the NDIS supports we fund. These are not the responsibility of your school or tertiary education provider to provide. For example, we might fund things like personal care while you're at university. We don't fund supports while studying that aren't related to your disability support needs.¹¹

Is the support an effective and beneficial NDIS support for you?

We need to check the NDIS supports we fund while you study will be effective and beneficial for you.¹² We also look at how effective the supports have been for other people with similar circumstances as you.¹³

We'll talk with you to understand how the NDIS supports we fund could help you to study. We know building your study skills can take time. We think about what NDIS supports will help you build your skills over time and what NDIS funding can help with this.

If the NDIS supports you need for study are to help you get a job, we need to make sure they:

- are provided by a qualified training provider
- are likely to help you get the job you want
- improve your chances of successfully finishing the course
- will lead to a reasonable chance you'll be able to get paid work once you finish the course.

Does the support help you pursue your goals?

We need to check if NDIS supports while you study will help you pursue your goals.¹⁴ For us to fund supports while you study, you need to [set a study goal](#) in your plan. For example, you might have a goal to complete a qualification at TAFE or obtain a university degree.

Is the support legal and safe to use?

The NDIS supports we fund must be legal and safe for you and other people.¹⁵ We won't fund anything that puts you or others at risk.

Is the support value for money?

Your NDIS support while you study must be value for money compared to other supports.¹⁶ It's important to consider:

- if there are supports that might achieve the same outcome that cost less¹⁷
- if your NDIS supports while studying will help you in the long term¹⁸
- if your NDIS supports while studying could help you become more independent or reduce your support needs in future.¹⁹

Do we expect friends, family or the community to provide this support?

We think about whether we'd usually expect family, friends or others in the community to provide the kind of supports you need.²⁰

This includes thinking about the different supports that are usually provided by family and friends at different ages. For example, most parents help small children get ready for school in the morning, but this wouldn't usually be the case for an older child at high school, or an adult at university or TAFE.

We generally expect families to provide their primary or secondary school aged children with help completing homework or getting to and from school.²¹ This is the same for all children, even if they don't have a disability.

We don't expect family or friends to provide personal care at school or tertiary education.

How do you get NDIS supports while studying in your plan?

For us to fund NDIS supports while you study, you need to [set a study goal](#) in your plan. This could be a goal to explore further study or be supported to continue studying. It doesn't matter if it's a short-term or long-term goal. You can talk to your support coordinator, recovery coach, or my NDIS contact about your goals in your plan.

Achieving goals usually takes many different kinds of supports. NDIS supports may be just one kind of support that helps you work toward your goals.

We'll need to understand your goals, the type of support and how much support you'll need to achieve them. We'll also talk with you about what your school, tertiary education provider or other mainstream services can provide.

When we decide if an NDIS support will help you pursue your goals, we consider your whole situation. We look at how a support will address your disability support needs, and the disability specific barriers that prevent you from pursuing your goals.

We look at all the information we have when we decide how much funding to include in your plan. This includes information from reports or assessments you've already given us.

We'll also consider the things we already know about you, for example the help you need to participate in the community or look after yourself at home.

What do we mean by supports for work?

If you want to work, we want to support you. When we talk about supports for work, we mean the support you need because of your disability to:

- complete after-school work or work experience as a student of working age
- transition from school to work, training, or further education
- change occupation
- keep working when it's difficult
- become self-employed
- change or advance your career
- try paid work when you haven't before
- have support at work.

We can fund the NDIS supports you need to work because of your disability if they meet all the [NDIS funding criteria](#). These are extra supports that are beyond what your employer or employment support service must provide.

To learn more about work, check out our webpage on finding, [keeping and changing jobs](#).

NDIS supports while preparing for work

What can we fund?

If you're thinking about starting work, you may need support to build skills and confidence that will help you to work. We can fund NDIS supports if you need extra help with this because of your disability. These are available to all working age participants from 14 years of age.

This could help you:

- work out what you'd like to do
- develop your work skills through on-the-job work experience
- build your basic skills for work, like travelling independently, following directions and working in a team
- overcome barriers you might experience in finding and keeping a job
- get additional work experience separate to what's available through the school curriculum
- get a part-time job while you're at school
- build your skills to connect with and be supported by a [Disability Employment Service](#), if eligible.

If the supports to build skills and confidence meet the [NDIS funding criteria](#), we'll fund these NDIS supports in your plan.

To help work out the amount of funding and type of NDIS supports you need, we'll talk to you about:

- the type of tasks you're good at and those you need the most help with
- the things you enjoy doing
- any work experience or volunteering you've done
- how confident you feel doing things on your own
- if you need help to follow instructions
- how you look after your own money
- if you need help to do things in your community
- if you can travel on your own, or need help with this
- the things that you feel stop you from getting work
- other activities you do to help build your skills, confidence and independence.

Example

Bilal is 15 years old and in year 10 at high school. He had a successful work experience placement as part of his school curriculum with the support of his learning support teacher. He has a goal to get his first part-time job outside of school hours. Bilal will need some additional work experience to build his skills for work and become more confident in a work setting. His planner funds NDIS supports to help Bilal work toward this goal. Bilal connects with an NDIS employment provider who will help him to gain additional work experience on weekends. When he feels more confident, Bilal's provider will help him to secure a role that suits his skills and abilities. The provider will assist Bilal to learn his new role and educate the employer and work mates about how they can help Bilal to contribute to the productivity of his new workplace.

This experience can set Bilal up for successful transition into full-time employment when he completes his education.

Transitioning from school to work

Leaving school is a big step in life. It's important to think about your work goals during your last few years of school and as you get close to the end of school.

If you have difficulties in the areas of learning, social interaction and self-management, you may need additional support to build skills and confidence before you're ready to look for work.

We can fund NDIS supports to help you:

- build your skills for work
- work out the type of work that will suit you
- get on-the-job work experience to learn what's expected in a workplace
- customise a job role that suits your skills and interests
- get a job. This includes providing education and support to your employer and others in the workplace
- learn your job and build connections in your new workplace through on-the-job coaching
- be productive at work and maintain your employment.

Further education or training is a common pathway to work, and necessary for many jobs. You can find more information on the assistance available to help you achieve your study goals at [What do we mean by support while studying?](#)

Ready to start work

When you're feeling confident to start looking for a job, we might be able to fund:

- extra support to help you find work
- on-the-job support to help you keep your job.

We'll also think about who is best to provide the support you need and whether you're ready to begin working with a [Disability Employment Service](#) provider.

A Disability Employment Service provider may be able to help you if you're:

- independent in accessing the community
- are job-ready or close to being job-ready
- have a good understanding of your work skills, interests and capabilities
- able to be independent at work with reasonable adjustment from your employer and a lower level of ongoing support from your Disability Employment Service provider.

If you think you'll need longer to get ready for work or need more help than a Disability Employment Service can provide, we can help. Talk to your my NDIS contact, support coordinator or recovery coach to get more information.

What can't we fund?

We don't fund things that other organisations are responsible for, like:

- government funded employment programs including [Disability Employment Services](#), [JobAccess](#) and [Workforce Australia](#).
- employment programs, including both disability-targeted and open employment services. These provide advice and support to job seekers with disability who are largely independent once placed in employment to find and retain a job.

Example

Tatiana is 27 years old and has never worked. She wants to work but isn't sure what sort of work might be right for her or how much she could work.

Tatiana and her local area coordinator decide that connecting with an NDIS employment provider will help her explore employment options. Getting on-the-job experience to learn more about her skills and interests would be a good start. Tatiana sets a goal to find out more about her capacity to work. Her planner decides it's reasonable and necessary to fund NDIS supports to help Tatiana work out what she can do and then find suitable work.

Tatiana works with her local area coordinator to connect with an NDIS employment provider. They'll help her find out more about jobs that she may be suited to and identify employers that can offer work experience. Tatiana will be able to develop her skills and confidence in a realistic work setting.

Tatiana also uses some of her NDIS funding to join a group of people who are guided by an employment coach in looking for work. This helps Tatiana build her social skills and boosts her confidence in meeting new people. It also helps her to learn how to find suitable jobs, apply, and prepare for job interviews.

As Tatiana understands more about her work interests and capability, her provider will help her to connect with an employer who can offer work experience and a job if all works well.

NDIS supports while at work

Your employer must provide reasonable adjustments to make sure your job suits your needs. This can include:

- changes to work practices
- alterations to facilities
- access to specific aids or equipment to enable you to work effectively and comfortably.

Reasonable adjustments help you take part in employment the same as someone without a disability.²²

Your employer should provide supervision and support to help you understand your role. This is the same for everyone at work.

Sometimes you might need NDIS supports to manage your disability and help you succeed at work. For example, you might want to work different hours or need support and advice to do your job as well as your employer expects.

You might also need help if things change suddenly and your disability impacts your ability to adjust to those changes. For example, when work processes or job requirements change or you get a new boss.

In these situations, there are some supports that your employer should provide to help you. Your NDIS or [Disability Employment Service](#) provider will advise who can best help you.

What can we fund?

We can fund the NDIS support you need that isn't the responsibility of your employer or employment program. For example, we could fund:²³

- personal care supports while you're at work
- occupational therapy or vocational assessments to see if your disability affects how you work, and what supports can help you do your job
- extra on-the-job training and support with your work tasks if you need them sometimes because of your disability
- support to help you manage your behaviour or complex needs at work.

When do we fund ongoing supports in a job?

We'll fund NDIS supports based on your needs. We consider your hours of work if you need day-to-day, on-the-job NDIS supports. This could be support just for you, or in a group if you work with other people with disability. For example, in a supported employment service.

Depending on where you work, you might need a mix of individual support for certain tasks, and group support for other types of work. This could be:

- **capacity building supports** to help you achieve a specific goal or overcome a problem. This is usually for a set amount of time
- day-to-day NDIS supports if you need regular and ongoing help when you're at work.

If your goal is to change your place of employment, NDIS supports may be able to help you reach your goal. For example, if you work in a supported employment service, your NDIS supports can help you develop your skills to move into another job.

What can't we fund?

We can't fund things at work that your employer must provide. This includes any reasonable adjustments your employer needs to make so your job suits your needs.

This means we don't fund things like:²⁴

- wages, insurance or superannuation
- recruitment costs
- changes your employer needs to make to recruitment or interview processes to make sure they're fair for everyone
- employment programs to encourage and assist employers to implement recruitment policies and practices to hire and be inclusive of people with disability in the workplace. This includes training, resources, incentives for hiring people with disability, and wage subsidies
- employer compliance with employment laws, including those dealing with disability discrimination
- changes to buildings where you work, like accessible bathrooms
- work specific aids, equipment, computers or software to help you do your job
- travel as part of your work
- support, training and skill development that your employer provides to all employees
- changes to your work that your employer provides to make sure you do it safely and productively. These are considered reasonable adjustments
- changes to your work to make sure you have the same opportunities and conditions as everyone else, for example reasonable adjustments.

To learn more, go to section **What employment supports are not NDIS supports?** in [Our Guideline – Mainstream and community supports](#).

Example

Jasmin has a physical disability and starts work at a bank. The bank installed a ramp and set up her work desk to meet her needs. Initially, she worked short hours and went home at lunch time to use her NDIS supports for personal care and to eat lunch. As she becomes more familiar with the work, Jasmin feels she could increase her hours at work.

Jasmin and her support coordinator discuss how Jasmin could stay at work longer with her employment and support workers. Jasmin decides to use some of her core funding to have a support worker come to work at lunch time to help her with personal care and eat lunch at

work. That way she gets the support she needs because of her disability and can stay at work longer.

NDIS supports while self-employed or want to start your own business

We may be able to fund the NDIS supports you need because of your disability to help you work in your own business. This is where you work for yourself and not for a company or business. You earn your income directly from your own business, trade or profession.

There are other programs that can help you if you want to work in your own business. Learn more about supports to help you [start your own business](#).

The kinds of supports we can and can't fund if you're self-employed are similar to those already explained in [NDIS supports while at work](#). For example, we wouldn't fund a bookkeeping course or accountancy fees, as this is something everyone pays for themselves.

NDIS supports while seeking a career change or to advance your career

You may want or need to change jobs because of your disability. If you're unable to return to your previous occupation because your disability support needs have changed or you've acquired a new disability, we can help.

We may fund employment-related assessment counselling and advice can help you to develop a new work pathway. This NDIS support can help to identify your unique strengths and barriers to employment and inform a work goal and development plan.

Support can include:²⁵

- functional assessment to help identify your capacity to perform a job safely and effectively. It can also recommend reasonable adjustments and develop a plan to help you start work or return to work
- vocational assessment to evaluate your skills, qualifications and interests to identify potential future employment and training options. It includes a report outlining the types of work that might suit you, and a plan including the support you need to achieve your work goals
- education and support for you, your employer and others in the workplace
- counselling when your disability prevents return to your previous occupation
- assisting with adjustments to work processes or workplaces that will enable you to be productive and work safely.

You may want to change jobs to gain new experiences or to advance your career. For example, you might want more hours at work, to take up a promotion, work for a different organisation, or move from a supported employment service into open employment.

If you need help to move into a different job role or workplace, speak to your my NDIS contact, support coordinator or recovery coach about your goals and the help you think you'll need.

Learn more about employment supports to build skills for work here: [Building skills and getting a job | NDIS](#).

How do we decide if supports for work meet the NDIS funding criteria?

All NDIS supports must meet the [NDIS funding criteria](#). This includes that it's an NDIS support for you.

Ask yourself the questions below. They can help you think about whether we can consider funding NDIS supports for work for you.

Is the support for work an NDIS support for you?

A support for work will be an NDIS support for you if either:

- the NDIS laws say that the support is an NDIS support for everyone
- the NDIS laws say that the support is only for a specific group of people and you're part of that group.²⁶

NDIS supports are the services, items and equipment that can be funded under the NDIS.

We might not be able to fund all the supports you need for work. Some supports you need for your disability might not be our responsibility to fund and may be better funded or provided through:

- other mainstream services. For more information, go to [Our Guideline – Mainstream and community supports](#)
- Disability Employment Services or Job Access
- Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
- other government departments, or your state or territory government
- your business or employer.

Your employer is responsible for providing you with reasonable adjustments. Your employer might be able to get funding for some of these things, such as workplace modifications through the [Employment Assistance Fund](#).

Reasonable adjustments include support and changes that will help you:

- do your work tasks safely
- have the same opportunity to get a job, develop in your job and get promoted
- be treated fairly at work
- do your job as well as you can.

For more information, check out the [Australian Human Rights Commission](#) website.

We can't fund supports that are better funded or provided through another program, service, or your workplace. We call these 'mainstream supports' because they're provided by mainstream services. Mainstream supports are available to other Australians and are not just for people with a disability.²⁷

Is the support for work related to your disability support needs?

We'll only fund the extra support you need related to your disability. This means there must be a direct link between your disability support needs and the NDIS supports we fund. These are not the responsibility of your employer or employment program to provide. For example, we might fund things like personal care while you're at work or support to explore what sort of work will suit you. We don't fund supports for work that aren't related to your disability support needs.²⁸

If you're working, your workplace should provide training, supervision and coaching to help you understand your role. This is the same for everyone at work. Sometimes you might need extra support because of your disability. This could include things like helping you stay on track with work tasks or working as part of a team. We may be able to fund this extra help at work.

Is the support an effective and beneficial NDIS support for you?

We need to check the NDIS supports for work we fund will be effective and beneficial for you.²⁹ We also look at how effective the supports have been for other people in similar circumstances as you.³⁰

We know building your work skills can take time. We think about what supports will help you to build your skills over time and what funding can help with this.

We'll talk with you to understand the support you need to participate in work and how the NDIS support we fund could help you

Does the support help you pursue your goals?

Having a job brings many benefits. If you're looking to develop your work skills, get a job, or change jobs we think about if NDIS supports are likely to help you pursue your work goals.³¹

For us to fund NDIS supports for work you need to have a work goal in your plan. This could be a goal to build your skills for work, get a job, volunteer or do work experience. Learn more about [setting goals](#).

The [Let's talk about work](#) booklet can help you to think and talk about:

- your skills, abilities and interests
- work experiences and history
- barriers to getting a job
- the help you need to build skills for work and choose a suitable job or career path
- the support you need at work or to change jobs if you're already working
- developing employment goals that reflect what you hope to achieve.

Achieving goals usually takes many different kinds of supports. NDIS supports will most likely be just one kind of support that helps you work toward your goals.

Is the support legal and safe to use?

The NDIS supports for work we fund must be legal and safe for you and other people. We won't fund anything that puts you or others at risk.³²

Is the support value for money?

Your NDIS supports for work must be value for money compared to other supports.³³ It's important to consider:

- if there are supports that might achieve the same outcome that cost less³⁴
- if your NDIS supports for work will help you in the long term³⁵
- if your NDIS supports for work could help you become more independent or reduce your support needs in future.³⁶

Do we expect friends, family, or the community to provide this support?

We think about whether we would usually expect family, friends or others in the community to provide the kind of supports you need.³⁷

This includes thinking about the different supports that are usually provided by family and friends at different ages. For example, a parent may support a young person who's still at

school to understand what's involved in a job interview and may provide support to get to and from an after-school job. Parents would not usually provide intensive assistance to build work skills, or help an employer to understand their obligations or how best to support their child at work.

We don't expect family or friends to provide personal care in the workplace.

How do you get NDIS supports for work in your plan?

For us to fund NDIS supports for work, you need to [set a work goal](#) in your plan. This could be a goal to explore work, build skills for work, find a job, change jobs or continue working. It doesn't matter if it's a short or long-term goal. You can talk to your my NDIS contact, support coordinator or recovery coach about the goals to include in your plan.

You could use the [Let's talk about work](#) booklet to support your conversations with us.

We'll need to understand your goals and how much support you need.

We'll look at all the information you have available. This might include:

- work experience reports
- references or reports from part-time work or volunteering activities
- reports or assessments from health professionals
- where you work
- the assistance you receive and need to be productive at work
- the frequency of support (days, hours and times you need support)
- the intensity of support (are the supports provided in a group, 1:1, or a mix of both)
- Centrelink Job Capacity Assessment or Employment Services Assessments
- any additional support required such as designing job tasks and customising on-the-job learning tools.

When we decide if an NDIS support will help you pursue your goals, we consider your whole situation. We look at how a support will address your disability support needs, and the disability-specific barriers that prevent you from pursuing your goals. For example, we'll consider the help you need to participate in the community or look after yourself at home.

What happens once you have NDIS supports for work or while studying in your plan?

Once your plan is approved, you can start using your NDIS supports for work or while studying. Talk to your support coordinator, recovery coach or my NDIS contact for advice on how to use your funding.

You'll know if these types of NDIS supports are included in your plan by the comments shown next to the funding budget in your plan.

We want you to make the best use of your funding even if you change where you work or study. For example, if you work in a supported employment service, you could continue to use your NDIS supports in a different job, not just at the supported employment service.

If your needs change, you should talk to us. You might be able to [use your plan flexibly](#) or you might need a change to your plan. Learn more about [changing your plan](#).

What if you don't agree with our decision?

If we decide NDIS supports for work and NDIS supports while you study don't meet all our [NDIS funding criteria](#), 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 NDIS supports for work and while studying, you can ask for an internal review of our decision.

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

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

Reference list

- ¹ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 7.14.
- ² NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 7.16.
- ³ Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) ss 5, 6.
- ⁴ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 7.13.
- ⁵ NDIS (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) (NDIS Supports) Transitional Rules 2024 sch 2 item 16.
- ⁶ Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) ss 5, 6.
- ⁷ NDIS (Support for Participants) Rules r 7.15.
- ⁸ NDIS (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) (NDIS Supports) Transitional Rules 2024 sch 2 item 17.
- ⁹ NDIS Act s10(1)(a)(b).
- ¹⁰ NDIS Act s10(2)(a)(b).
- ¹¹ NDIS Act s34(1)(aa).
- ¹² NDIS Act s34(1)(d).
- ¹³ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 3.2
- ¹⁴ NDIS Act s34(1)(a).
- ¹⁵ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules rr 5.1(a), 5.3.
- ¹⁶ NDIS Act s34(1)(c).
- ¹⁷ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 3.1(a).
- ¹⁸ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 3.1(b).
- ¹⁹ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules rr 3.1(c), (f).
- ²⁰ NDIS Act s34(1)(e).
- ²¹ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 3.4(a).
- ²² Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) ss 5, 6.
- ²³ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 7.17(a)-(b).
- ²⁴ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 7.18(a), NDIS (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) (NDIS Supports) Transitional Rules 2024 sch 2 item 18.
- ²⁵ NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits 2024-25
- ²⁶ NDIS Act s10(1)(a)(b).
- ²⁷ NDIS Act s10(2)(a)(b).
- ²⁸ NDIS Act s34(1)(aa).
- ²⁹ NDIS Act s34(1)(d).
- ³⁰ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 3.2
- ³¹ NDIS Act s34(1)(a).
- ³² NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules rr 5.1(a), 5.3.
- ³³ NDIS Act s34(1)(c).
- ³⁴ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 3.1(a).
- ³⁵ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 3.1(b).
- ³⁶ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules rr 3.1(c), (f).
- ³⁷ NDIS Act s34(1)(e).