

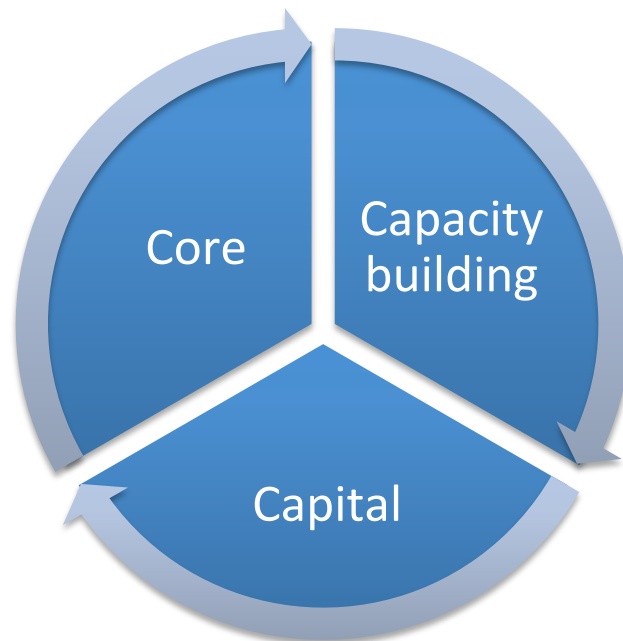
How participants manage their NDIS funding package

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The NDIS has been designed to give participants choice and control over their plan, and flexibility in how they spend their support funding.

There are three types of support budgets in a participant’s funding package:

1. Core budget – includes supports to help participants with activities related to daily living and work towards their longer-term goals
2. Capacity Building budget – includes supports to enable participants to build their independence and skills
3. Capital budget – includes assistive technologies, equipment and home or vehicle modifications, and funding for capital costs participants may need (e.g. Specialist Disability Accommodation).



Core budget

A Core budget is the most flexible, and includes four categories of support:

1. Consumables (e.g. purchasing everyday use items such as continence aids)
2. Daily Activities (e.g. assistance with self-care activities during the day or evening)
3. Assistance with Social and Community Participation (e.g. supports to enable participants to engage in social or recreational activities)
4. Transport (e.g. if participants are unable to use public transport because of their disability).

Participants can generally use Core budget funds allocated against one support category to purchase supports under another support category **unless** funds have been set aside for a specific purpose such as periodic payments for transport, or any Core budget line item type that is:

- Compensation
- Specialised Disability Accommodation i.e. accommodation for participants who require specialist housing solutions due to significant functional impairment and/or very high support needs
- In-kind e.g. Government pre-paid supports such as school transport or some therapy supports
- Stated item (including Quotes for certain items) e.g. assistance in a shared living arrangement.

In these cases, the funds within a category must only be used for that specific purpose. Details about Core supports are contained in each participants' NDIS plan.

Capacity Building budget

The Capacity Building funding is allocated across eight support sub-categories, each matched with the goals each participant has come up with in their plan. Participants can choose how to spend these funds to purchase any approved individual support within its category, but won't be able to move funding from one category to another.

The Capacity Building support categories include:

1. Choice and Control e.g. training in planning and plan management
2. Daily Activity e.g. therapy aimed at building your capacity to participate
3. Employment e.g. employment related assessment and counselling
4. Health and Well Being e.g. exercise advice required due to impact of disability
5. Home Living e.g. support to obtain/retain appropriate accommodation
6. Lifelong Learning e.g. assistance moving from school to further education
7. Relationships e.g. positive behavioural support strategies to reduce behaviours of concern
8. Social and Community Participation e.g. tuition fees, sports coaching or similar activities to build skills and independence.

Support Coordination (if required) is included in the Capacity Building budget. This is a fixed amount for strengthening participants' abilities to coordinate and implement supports in their plans and to participate more fully in the community.

Support Coordination is also funded and referred to as Support Connection (Level 1), and Coordination of Supports (Level 2), and Support Coordination (Level 3).

Capital Support budget

The Capital Support budget relates to supports such as assistive technology or modifications to a participant's home and as such depends on quotes from suppliers. Funds within this budget

can only be used for their specific purpose (e.g. a rail in the bathroom or a wheelchair) and cannot be used to fund other items.

The Capital Support budget has two support categories:

- Assistive Technology – includes equipment items for mobility, personal care, communication and recreational inclusion (e.g. wheelchairs or vehicle modifications)
- Home Modifications (e.g. rail in the bathroom).

Starting an NDIS plan

Depending on their situation there are a range of people, including the NDIA, who can help participants implement the plan and support them to start receiving services and supports. These would have been discussed with each participant during their planning process and may be a Local Area Coordinator or an Early Childhood Partner.

Some people may also have a Support Coordinator funded in their plan to help them get started. Participants can start their plan by themselves if they are self-managed.

For further information about how participants can manage the supports in their plan, including making service bookings and using the myplace Participant Portal, visit the participants section of our website at www.ndis.gov.au/participants.