



Flexible NDIS plans and funding

We want to know what you think

Easy Read version



ndis

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

How to use this paper



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



We have written this paper 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 38.



This Easy Read paper is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on **our website**.



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

What's in this paper?

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What is this paper 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 going to change the way NDIS plans and funding work.

We explain these changes on page 9.



But before we do this, we want to find out what the community thinks.

This includes:



- people with disability



- families and carers



- disability organisations.

In this paper, we:



- tell you about the changes we want to make



- explain how you can tell us what you think



- ask you questions.

What is an NDIS plan?



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.



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

Plans and funding support your:



- goals
- **functional capacity.**



Your functional capacity is:

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



We sometimes call it your capacity.

Why do we want to change how we make NDIS plans?



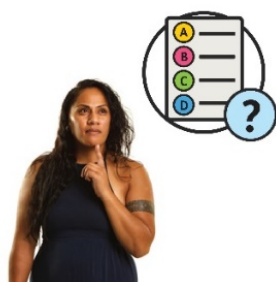
At the moment we don't have consistent ways to get information about your functional capacity.



This means that we don't always provide funding to participants in the same way.



It also means some people get more funding than others, even if they have the same needs.



People have told us that the **funding categories** and budgets are confusing.



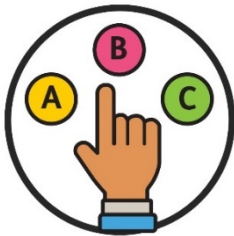
Funding categories are different types of funding that you receive for different types of supports.



And that we don't always talk about them in the same way.



At the moment, the budgets also limit what you can use your funding for.



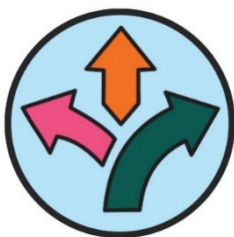
If funding is more flexible, every participant can choose what services and supports best suit them.



So, we want to change funding budgets to make them:



- easier to understand



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

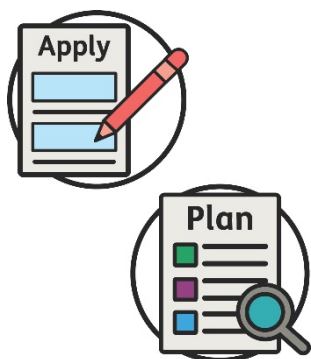
How will flexible funding work?



We want to start using flexible funding at the end of 2021.

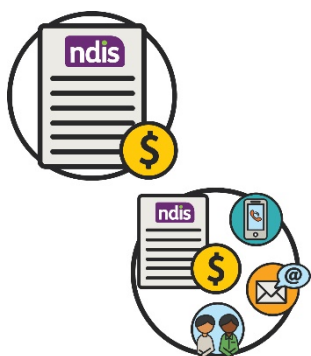


But we won't make this change all at once for every participant.



We will start by using flexible funding when someone:

- applies to take part in the NDIS
- has a plan review.



On the following pages we explain how:

- we decide what funding you receive
- you can use this funding.

Independent assessments



We will start using independent assessments in the middle of 2021.

We will start using independent assessments when we:



- work out who can take part in the NDIS



- review NDIS plans.

Assessments are how we work out:



- how your disability affects your life



- what funding you need from the NDIS.

An assessment is **independent** when it is done by someone who:



- doesn't already know you
- isn't the healthcare professional you usually go to for treatment.



You can find out more about independent assessments will work on **our website**.

Independent assessments will give us information about your:



- functional capacity
- life at home
- life at other places, like school and work.



We will use this information to make a **personalised** plan for you.



When something is personalised, it is made to suit your needs.



We will also use this information to help work out how much funding you receive in your plan.



A personalised plan will give you more control over how you use your funding to:



- work towards your goals



- help you do things for yourself.



We want personalised plans to be as flexible as possible so you can choose what supports and services you need.

Funding budgets

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.



In the future, the flexible funding will be made up of two types of budgets.



This will make it easier to get the supports and services you need.



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



Most of the supports you purchase will be from this category.

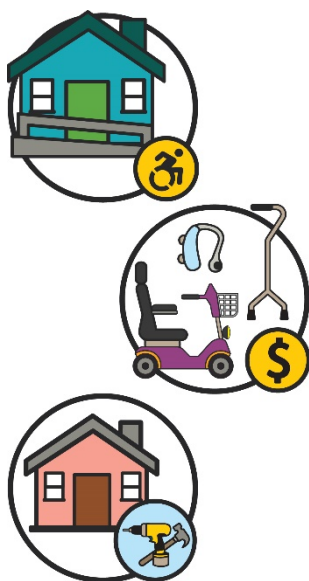


A **fixed budget** is funding that can only be used for some supports.



If you receive a fixed budget, you can only use that funding for specific supports.

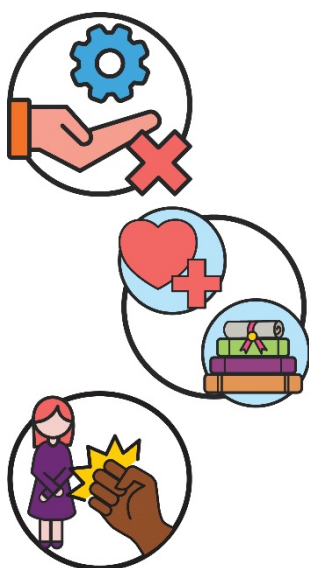
For example, this category might be for:



- Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) – accessible housing for people with disability
- assistive technology – funding for equipment to get around and communicate
- home modifications – funding to pay for changes you need to make your home easier for you to live in.



You can't use any of the funding for day-to-day living expenses, such as groceries or bills.



You also shouldn't use it to pay for supports or services that:

- aren't related to your disability
- you can already get in your community, such as health and education services
- might hurt you or someone else.

Making flexible funding work for you



Flexible funding will change how we make your plan.

This means your plan will focus on how you can use supports and services to:



- work towards your goals



- get the support you need.



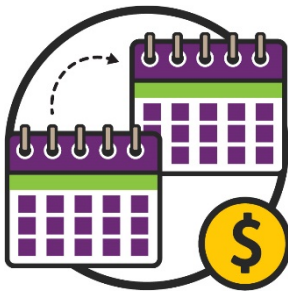
We will help you to make decisions about how you use your plan.



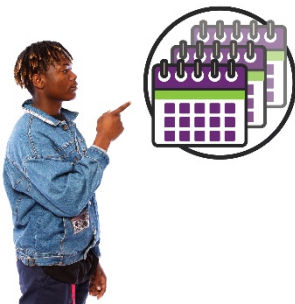
We won't give you all of your funding at the same time.



For example, we might give you part of your funding every month.



If you don't use all of your funding in that time, it will roll over.



This means you can use it later.



This funding will stay in your plan for up to 12 months.

Planning



Before we approve your plan, we will give you a copy of it.



This gives you a chance to make sure the plan is right for you before it starts.



We will have a planning meeting with you.



At that meeting, we will talk to you about:

- how you want to use your plan
- how you want to manage your plan
- how often we will give you the funding.

We will also talk to you about how we will support you, including:



- who you can talk to if you have questions about how to use your funding



- how often we will have **check-ins** with you to make sure your plan is working well.

When we have a check-in with you, it means that we talk to you about how your plan is going.

A check-in:



- is a casual conversation, not a plan review
- will usually take 15 to 30 minutes.

A check-in can be done many ways, such as:



- over the phone
- face-to-face.



You can find out more about planning meetings and using your plan on **our website**.

What if something changes?



We understand that everyone has changes in their life from time to time.



If something changes in your life, you can make some changes to your plan.



You won't need an independent assessment to make some small changes to your plan.

These changes can be:



- changing how you manage your plan



- changing how often you have check-ins



- updating your goals

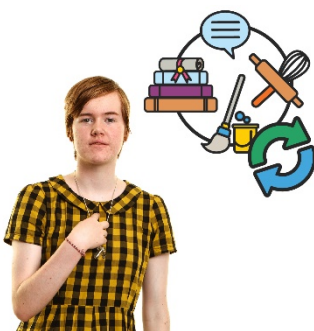


- fixing mistakes on your plan.



But you might need a new independent assessment if something big in your life changes.

For example, if:



- your functional capacity has changed



- you're reaching a new stage in life, like finishing school.



We might ask you to do an independent assessment from time to time to check that your plan still supports your functional capacity.



This will happen at least every 5 years.

How to tell us what you think



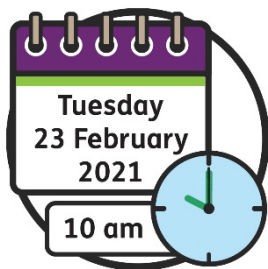
We want to know what you think about these changes.



You can tell us what you think by answering the questions on the following pages.



Or you can tell us what you think on **our website**.



Please tell us what you think by 10 am ADST on Tuesday 23 February 2021.

Questions for you to think about

We want to know what you think about:



- how we make plans



- flexible funding.

You can answer:



- all of the questions



- some of the questions.



How can we support participants to prepare for a planning meeting?

You can write your answer here:



How should we set out the information in a participant's plan so it's easy to understand?

You can write your answer here:





How can we make it easy for participants to understand how they can spend their funding?

You can write your answer here:



What supports should always be in the fixed budget?

You can write your answer here:





How can we make sure a participant's plan is right for them?

You can write your answer here:

A large rectangular box with a purple border, intended for writing an answer. In the top right corner of this box is a small icon of a document with a pencil, indicating a writing area.



What can we do to support people to use their:

- plan?
- flexible funding?



For example, could we make new tools or guides?

You can write your answer here:





How can we make sure the planning process works for children who are over 7 years old?

You can write your answer here:



What ideas do you have for how participants can use their plan in new ways that suit their needs?

You can write your answer here:






How can we make the timing of putting funds into your plan work well?

You can write your answer here:

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How often should we check-in with participants to make sure their plan is working well?

You can write your answer here:

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Who should do a check-in with participants?

When should a check-in be needed?

You can write your answer here:

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How can we make sure the NDIA and participants work well together?

You can write your answer here:

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How can we best support participants when we start using this new way of planning?

You can write your answer here:

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More information



You can find out more about NDIS plans and funding on our website.

www.ndis.gov.au



If you would like more information about what is in this paper, you can contact us.



www.ndis.gov.au



1800 800 110



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[@NDIS](https://twitter.com/NDIS)

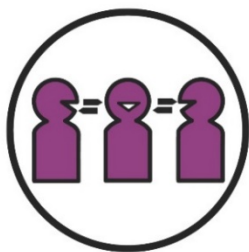
Support to talk to us



You can talk to us online using our webchat feature.

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

Word list



Assessment

Assessments are how we work out:

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



Check-ins

When we have a check-in with you, it means that we talk to you about how your plan is going.

A check-in is a casual conversation, not a plan review.



Consistent

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



Fixed budget

A fixed budget is funding for some supports only.



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.



Funding categories

Funding categories are different types of funding that you receive for different types of supports.

Independent

An assessment is **independent** when it is done by someone who:



- doesn't already know you
- isn't the healthcare professional you usually go to for treatment.



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:



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