1 March 2022

The Government is improving the participant experience for people on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, with easier access to assistive technology.

Minister for the NDIS Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC has announced an increase in the upper limit for automatic approval of assistive technology (AT) purchases.

This limit has now increased from $5,000 to $15,000.

“I have listened closely to participants and their representatives, and what they have told me is they want a Scheme which is more person focused, with less red tape,” Minister Reynolds said.

“This is another example of the Government’s commitment to improving the NDIS and improving the participant’s experience.”

The changes will also assist many participants who currently have quotable AT under $15,000 in their plans.

The NDIA will automatically approve the funding for these items so participants can access this AT faster.

This new measure is still subject to the necessary checks and balances to maintain the integrity of the scheme.

The most commonly purchased AT within the $15,000 price range includes manual wheelchairs, specialty beds and bathroom chairs/stools.

The NDIA has summarised these changes in an updated guideline and new participant factsheet, setting out what evidence participants need to provide and what to do before buying AT.

The NDIA has also created a new guideline and template on vehicle modifications and driving supports, which includes simpler and clearer information.

These will help participants work with assessors to provide evidence for vehicle modification support requests over $15,000.

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