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Self-managing your NDIS funding provides more independence, flexibility and choice when deciding what NDIS supports to buy to meet your needs and pursue the goals in your plan.

Once you understand your NDIS plan, you can choose the [NDIS supports](#) you buy. We usually describe supports generally, so you have more choice in how to use your funding.

The supports you buy must be [NDIS supports](#) . Every person's plan is different, so the NDIS supports you can buy may be different to the NDIS supports someone else can buy.

When you receive your plan, it's a good idea to make a budget for the length of your plan and any funding periods included in your plan. You can then keep track of what you spend according to your budget.

This helps when deciding what to buy, and to make sure you can get the support you need for the length of your plan.

As a self-manager you can be innovative when working out how to best meet your needs and pursue your goals. You might find a new provider that better meets your needs or negotiate prices with your providers that save you money. You can use the money you've saved to buy other NDIS supports in line with your plan.

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## Video: Finding good supports while self-managing

In this video, we explain the importance of finding NDIS supports that are a good fit for you and your disability needs.

Participants Jocelyn and Emma share their tips on finding the right providers.

[Watch self-management video: Finding good supports while self-managing.](#)

You may choose to engage your own staff when you self-manage. You can use your NDIS funding for costs directly related to engaging your own staff. This might be for things like insurances and superannuation.

Learn more in our guide to [directly engaging your own staff](#) .

You can generally use funding in your core supports budget flexibly. This means you may choose to use some of it to pay for supports that help you self-manage. Such as:

- bookkeeping and accounting services
- employment services including support to recruit and manage staff and meet your responsibilities as an employer
- software applications
- capacity building supports to self-manage
- peer support organisation, events or memberships.

Funding won't be included in your plan to pay for supports that aren't NDIS supports, except for [replacement supports](#) . Supports that aren't NDIS supports include, but are not limited to:

- costs associated with services other government agencies provide, like school fees, Medicare gaps, dental costs, other health or hospital service fees
- supports that would usually be provided by your family or friends
- everyday expenses such as your groceries, meals out with friends, rent or utilities
- supports that may cause you harm, or put you or others at risk
- supports that consist of the provision of sexual services and sex work, alcohol or drugs
- expenses that aren't related to your disability.

See the list of [supports that are not NDIS supports](#) .

If you purchase supports that are not in line with your plan or are not NDIS supports, you may be required to pay this money back to the NDIS.

## Can you buy it with your NDIS funding?

We fund NDIS supports that relate to your disability. NDIS supports are the services, items and equipment that can be funded by the NDIS. Learn more about the [supports we fund](#) .

You'll need to use your NDIS funding in line with the NDIS supports included in your plan.

The following checklists and questions can help you do this.

## Checklist

### Can you buy it with your NDIS funding?

This resource can help ensure the NDIS supports you buy are in line with the supports included in your plan.

- [Can you buy it with your NDIS funding \(PDF 228KB\)](#)
- [Can you buy it with your NDIS funding \(DOCX 284KB\)](#)

If the answer is 'yes' to these questions, the support is likely to be in line with supports included in your plan. If you're unsure, you can talk to your support coordinator or my NDIS contact.

### **Do you need the support because of impairments that meet the disability or early intervention requirements?**

The NDIS supports you buy must be related to the impairments that meet the disability or early intervention requirements.

For example, if you meet access due to a hearing impairment, we'll fund NDIS supports for that impairment. You have choice and control about the NDIS supports you buy that will meet your needs.

We won't fund supports for any impairments that don't meet the disability or early intervention requirements. You can meet access for multiple impairments.

You can't use NDIS funding for supports that are not NDIS supports. This includes day-to-day living costs such as rent, groceries or household bills.

### **Is the support likely to meet your needs?**

We encourage you to explore NDIS supports before deciding what to buy, so you can get the best support available to you.

You can talk to your peers and networks about NDIS supports and try new things. If your supports are described as flexible in your plan, you can change your supports if you feel there is something that could better meet your needs.

### **Is the cost of the support reasonable?**

When you think about the benefit of the support, is the cost of the support reasonable? It should give you good value for money compared to other options.

### **Can you afford the support within your support budget?**

Your NDIS funding needs to last for the length of your plan. The NDIS supports you buy must fit into your total funding amount. We will call this a 'total budget amount' in your plan.

If your plan includes funding periods, you must also have enough funds during your funding period to purchase the support. If you don't spend all your funds in a funding period, it will rollover into your next funding period within the same plan.

Any unspent funds won't rollover to your next plan, as this is a new plan that we need to ensure meets your disability support needs.

Work out your budget early so you know what you can afford. This will help you track your funding and make decisions about any changes to your supports during your plan. You might like to use our [budget calculator](#) to help you do this.

When you claim, we can pay up to the total amount of funds available in your plan. This means we can't pay an amount if it would mean we would have paid more than:

- the total funding amount in your plan
- a funding component amount in your plan
- the amount provided in a funding period in your plan.

We can only pay more in limited and specific situations in line with the NDIS laws.

## Is the support something that should be funded by the NDIS and not other government services?

The NDIS only funds disability-related supports. Other services and supports like dental, health or hospital services, education, housing, and public transport are all provided by other government organisations.

You can learn more about other government services in [Our Guideline – Mainstream and community supports](#).

## Is the support safe?

You can't purchase supports that cause harm or put yourself or other people at risk.

## Is the support legal?

The support you buy must be legal. The support must not break any Commonwealth or state or territory laws.

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