

Understanding how NDIS funding works

The following are common questions about NDIS funding. They have been answered according to the different ways you can manage your plan - Agency, Plan or Self-Managed.

Questions about NDIS funding	Agency Managed (leave funds with NDIA)	Plan Managed (using NDIS Registered Plan Manager)	Self-Managed (you manage funds)
Who pays the provider/s I purchase?	They claim on the portal off NDIA	Plan Manager if account is not paid	Participant or nominee
If I've paid an account, can I get reimbursement?	Not usually	Yes – you can claim reimbursement off PM using receipt	Yes - you can claim reimbursement via Portal based on receipt
Who makes the claim on the NDIS Portal?	Registered Provider	Plan Manager (PM)	Participant or nominee
Who is responsible for maintaining the paperwork on claims for 5 years?	NDIA	Plan Manager	Participant or nominee
How do I know how much funding I have left in each budget?	NDIS Participant Portal provides 'rough' balances	Most Plan Managers can provide you with balances	Use Portal and it is advisable for Self-Managers to keep their own records
Can I use my local accountant (unregistered) as my PM (Plan Manager)?	No	No	Yes – you can pay for assistance with financial management of Plan
Do I need to pay providers first and then claim the funds back?	No	No – unless provider wants payment prior to support e.g. continence product; therapist	No – unless provider wants payment prior to support e.g. continence product; therapist

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Do I need to approve each payment from the Plan?	No – you don't see any invoices or payments	No, however it is recommended that you check and approve invoices	Yes - as you are responsible for making legitimate claims
Can I use unregistered providers?	No	Yes – you can use contractors; Registered, unregistered & other entities with an ABN	Yes – you can use contractors; registered, unregistered & other entities with an ABN
Can I pay providers more than the NDIS Price Guide set unit price?	No	No (some exceptions where co-payment)	Yes
If I choose to manage my funds this way does it improve flexibility of funds?	No – except for bundling Core Supports	No – except for bundling Core Supports	Yes – there are a range of ways you can improve flexibility
Can I employ my own workers directly?	No	No	Yes – if you run/set up a business entity that employs the staff
If the NDIS Prices increase, will my plan funds increase in line with this?	Yes	Yes	Usually they don't
I do not have enough Transport Budget can I use other Core Supports funds?	Yes, if Transport is not paid fortnightly	Yes, if Transport is not paid fortnightly	Yes (refer to page 2 for more details)
I don't have any Transport funding can I use other Core Support funds for this?	No	No	No

Transport funding flexibility

Automated transport payments

If you have all your Transport Budget paid fortnightly into your bank account (sometimes called 'periodic payment') then you cannot 'top up' your transport budget from your other Core funding.

Be aware that planners may refer to this option as **self-managed** transport, but it is actually not the same as true self-management where you claim invoices on the Portal and pay providers directly.

How do I get flexibility of Transport Budget?

The NDIS allows participants to use their Core Supports Budgets flexibly, i.e. use Budgets 1 – 4 as a combined budget:

1. Daily Living
2. Transport
3. Consumables
4. Social and Community Participation

This means that you can move funding between these four categories, such as, use Daily Living funds to top up your Transport funds, thereby increasing the amount of transport you can claim.

Exceptions to topping up include:

- Any funds in Core Supports that are marked as 'In-Kind' or 'Stated' cannot be used for any other purpose than allocated in your Plan i.e. cannot be used to top up other Core budgets
- If you are not allocated any funds in your Transport Budget, you cannot use other Core funds for transport

What do the words mean?

Budget

Refers to the funds allocated to a Support Category (i.e. there are 15 categories in the NDIS Price Guide) in an NDIS Plan. Sometimes it is use for 'combined' funds e.g. all the first 4 categories are sometimes referred to as the 'Core Support Budget'.

Registered Provider

A person or organisation who provides services and who has successfully met the requirements of the NDIA to become a NDIA registered service providers. This enables them to be funded directly by the NDIA for supports to NDIA participants.

Self-management

Where participants manage the claiming of invoices from the NDIS and the payment of providers themselves, for all or part of their NDIS funding. Or for transport it is receiving the transport in fortnightly instalments into their own bank account, from which they pay for transport.

Key NDIS acronyms

AT	Assistive Technology	RORD	Review of a Reviewable Decision
CB	Capacity Building	SDA	Specialist Disability Accommodation
ECEI	Early Childhood Early Intervention	SIL	Supported Independent Living
LAC	Local Area Coordinator	SLES	Supported Leaver Employment Supports

This **NDIS Tip Sheet** is a resource developed by the VALID Family Team
For more information contact Christine Scott christine@valid.org.au

130 Cremorne Street, Richmond VIC 3121
Ph: (03) 9416 4003
www.valid.org.au