

What are the NDIS Reasonable and Necessary Criteria?

As found in Chapter 3 Section 34 of the [Federal Register Legislation NDIS Act 2013](#), a support or item needs to meet the reasonable and necessary criteria for it to be claimed with NDIS funding. Both the NDIS and you need to be satisfied that the support or item meets the criteria found below.

If you answer “Yes” to the criteria which is relevant to your support or item, there is a good chance that it can be funded by the NDIS. If you need further support to align the criteria with your support or item, you can contact your support coordinator, your LAC, or the NDIS.

Keep in mind that the NDIS may look at your NDIS funding claims and may feel that the support you want does not align with the criteria. If this happens, the NDIS will contact you and you may need to pay back the funding if you cannot provide information to support how you came to your decision.

Supports that are not NDIS supports

The NDIA has released a document that contains a list of supports that are unable to be claimed from NDIS funding.

This means that any supports listed are unable to be claimed from your funding, even if it has been recommended to you, or you have agreed to the other reasonable and necessary criteria.

You can learn more on the NDIS website:

<https://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/would-we-fund-it/what-does-ndis-fund>

The criteria are explained below:



1. Is the support directly related to your disability?

Do you need the support or service because of your disability?

Example:

- If your disability prevents you from going out into the community by yourself, it would be necessary for you to have a support worker with you.
- If your disability prevents you from mowing your lawn, it may be necessary to have someone mow your lawns.



2. Will the support assist you to reach the goals in your NDIS plan?

The support or service should have a positive impact on your disability and help you to achieve your goals.

Example: If someone wants to improve their communication skills, speech therapy may be effective in achieving their goal and may receive funding from the NDIS.



3. Is the cost of the support value for money?

The support or service should be cost effective and provide good value for money.

Example: If there are two similar options for a support or item, the NDIS would fund the one that offers better outcomes at a reasonable cost.



4. Is the support something that should be funded by the NDIS funding?

Can the support or service be funded by another government organisation, such as the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of Housing, or Hospital and Health services or facilities?

Example: If you use a Mental Health Plan from your GP or use private health insurance for a support or service, the NDIS will not pay the difference with your NDIS funds.



5. Does the support assist you to undertake activities with your friends or the community?

The support or service should help you increase your social participation and improve your independence in the community, while also being linked with your goals.

Example: If your goal is to participate in a group or be more active in the community, a class or group activity may be considered necessary and could be claimed.



6. Is the support something that does not replace support that would normally be provided by your informal support network (family, friends, or people within your community)?

Partners, family, friends, and carers all play an important core in supporting you. Does your informal support network help you with this support or service or are they unable to at any point of time?

Example: Your family makes sure to look after you, but they also work, so you may need a support worker during the hours of the day when your family are away. This could be claimed with your NDIS funds.