

SOURCEKIDS

ISSUE 02

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Leap in!



Busting the myths

Get the most out of your NDIS plan

INSIDE GUIDE 2.

Can the NDIS help my
child at school?

Keep track of your
NDIS spending

Latest inclusive
products guide

SOURCEKIDS magazine

Welcome

When your child is approved for the NDIS, it is usually met with great excitement, anticipation, and a fair amount of relief that they will soon be able to access the supports they need.

But all too often, that excitement can give way to feelings of being totally overwhelmed.

Where do I start? How do I find the right therapists? How do I know if they're any good? What therapies are best? How do I keep track of my spending and make sure I have enough to last the year (or two years in some cases)? What am I allowed to buy and what can't I? What's considered high risk? And what is A.T. anyway?

Then there's all the different terms, categories, budgets, ways to manage your budgets, the service agreements, goal setting sessions, paperwork, paperwork and more paperwork.

It can be A LOT.

Thankfully, our friends at Leap in! have a wealth of experience and have been asked all these questions and more.

So together, we've created this second e-Mag to help simplify your NDIS journey.

Because life is busy, and who has the time to wade through page after page on the NDIS website?!

This e-Mag is about giving you the knowledge and confidence to make the choices that are right for your family, and help your child reach their goals now and in the future.

Happy reading.



REBEKAH DEVLIN
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A message from Leap in!

Welcome to the second edition of the Source Kids and Leap in! Navigating the NDIS e-Magazine.

Leap in! is Australia's leading NDIS plan manager and we're proudly not-for-profit. Every day we help thousands of parents, carers and their children implement their NDIS plans and use their funding effectively.

In this edition, the focus is on getting the most out of your child's NDIS Plan. You'll find a host of stories that range from Assistive Technology and inclusive products, through to creative therapy options to help your child reach their goals. There is also a great feature on how to use the Leap in! app to manage your NDIS budgets.

All the information included in this magazine is backed by our Leap in! crew, who are experienced in the Early Childhood Approach (formerly ECEI), NDIS transition and NDIS planning and budgeting. And, many with lived experience themselves.

If the information here leads to other questions, give us a call on 1300 05 78 78 – we can help.

Enjoy the read.

Warm regards,

Andrew Kiel

**CO-FOUNDER & CEO
LEAP IN!**

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Recap of NDIS budget categories

NDIS SUPPORT BUDGETS

There are three main budget categories or “support budgets” in an NDIS Plan. Whether your child receives funding in some, or all of these, depends on their individual needs.

The categories are:

- Core supports
- Capital supports
- Capacity Building supports

CORE SUPPORTS

Core supports are activities or supports that help with everyday life. Core supports are flexible, with funding often able to be used across any of the four categories:

- 1. Assistance with daily life:** Includes things like personal care, cooking and cleaning. Respite care (known as Short Term Accommodation) also comes under this category.
- 2. Assistance with social and community participation:** Can include help with getting to, or attending, social or community activities like classes, camps or sports. For example, funding for a support worker to help your child participate in these activities or help for them to connect and socialise with others.
- 3. Consumables:** Cover everyday items such as nutrition-related items or continence aids. Services such as interpreting and translation are also included.
- 4. Transport:** May help to cover costs associated with travel to specialised schooling, education programs or community activities.

The NDIS comes with an entirely new language to learn, which can be confusing, especially if you are just getting started with your child's first plan. If you're unsure where to begin, it's a good idea to learn about the various funding categories – how they work and what you can purchase from each category.

Having a solid understanding of the three NDIS support budgets will help you get the most out of your child's plan.

Here is a handy reference guide to help simplify things.



CORE SUPPORTS

CAPITAL SUPPORTS

CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORTS

CAPITAL SUPPORTS

Capital supports fund Assistive Technology, high-cost one-off purchases, home modifications and vehicle modifications. This funding must be used as specified in your NDIS Plan.

Assistive Technology (A.T.) covers any device that allows your child to do something that they wouldn't be able to do without it, or increases the ease or safety of things they do. It can also cover equipment trials and rental.

A.T. is split into different levels depending on the cost of the equipment.

- Low cost A.T.: under \$1500 per item.
- Mid cost A.T.: between \$1500 and \$15,000 per item.
- High cost A.T.: over \$15,000 per item.

The NDIS recommends getting advice from an A.T. assessor to ensure the equipment is right for your child's needs.

For high cost A.T. and items deemed to be a higher risk (such as those that are complex or require professional advice to set up), an A.T. assessment is required before purchase.

Home modifications are any changes needed to your home's structure, layout, or fittings to ensure your child can move around safely. These can range from simple handrails to complex structural changes.

CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORTS

Capacity Building funding is for activities that will support your child to learn new skills. These skills may include living more independently, behaviour support, or getting a plan manager to help implement their NDIS Plan.

There are nine sub-categories for Capacity Building funding:

1. **Support coordination** – to fund a dedicated support coordinator who can help you get the most from your child's plan and supports.
2. **Improved living arrangements.**
3. **Increased social and community participation.**

4. **Finding and keeping a job.**

5. **Improved relationships** – for specialised assessment and supports where an NDIS participant has complex or unclear behavioural needs.

6. **Improved health and wellbeing.**

7. **Improved learning** – such as a support worker to assist in class.

8. **Improved life choices** – funding for a plan manager to help with the administrative aspect of managing an NDIS Plan.

9. **Improved daily living** – building skills for a better life through supports like occupational therapy, physiotherapy or disability-related medical supports.

What is reasonable and necessary?

As you work through your child's NDIS Plan, you'll probably keep coming across the NDIS term "reasonable and necessary". But what exactly does this mean?

"Reasonable and necessary" is the term the NDIS uses to determine if a purchase meets the needs of the individual and the NDIS funding requirements.

Simply put, reasonable is something that is fair. Necessary is something you have to have because of a disability.

The NDIS funds "reasonable and necessary" supports to help people with disability live an ordinary life and achieve their goals.

During your Plan meeting, your NDIS Planner will gather information on what supports are "reasonable and necessary" for your situation by evaluating whether a support request is:

- Related to your child's disability and support needs
- Good value for money
- Likely to be effective and beneficial

Your NDIS Planner will also consider the unpaid, informal support provided by family, friends and other support crew (including support workers and the community).

Some examples that may be approved include:

- Support workers to help with personal care activities
- Therapeutic supports, like behaviour support
- Aids and equipment
- Home modifications
- Mobility equipment

Things the NDIS won't pay for

NDIS funding doesn't cover general everyday living expenses that people without a disability would be required to pay, such as train travel, rent, groceries, mobile phones or movie tickets.

Every person is different, so you must be able to demonstrate why a request is fair and reasonable in your situation. **5**

Creative ways to help your child reach their goals



**“They save me so much time on NDIS admin,
we absolutley love Leap in!”**

Rebecca G. Leap in! Member.

The NDIS is designed so kids and adults living with disabilities can choose the right supports to help them achieve their goals. Every child's NDIS Plan is individualised for their needs, which means there is built-in flexibility to get creative with how you use the funds.

Many parents are still unsure about what they can purchase with their child's NDIS Plan. Some don't know the full extent of possibilities and others are uncertain around some of the less common types of therapy and activities.

Over the following pages, we explore some of the more creative and unusual supports and services that you may be able to purchase with your child's NDIS funds. We hope these ideas will help open up a whole new world of possible supports.

Before we get into the creative ideas, it's worth remembering that all purchases need to meet the NDIS guidelines for funding. If you meet these criteria, you can be confident you're on the right track. If in doubt, you can always chat to your Local Area Coordinator, plan manager or support coordinator or call the NDIS.

General guidelines for spending NDIS funding

The support or service must:

- Be "reasonable and necessary" (see page 5).
- Be related to the child's disability.
- Be likely to be effective and beneficial.
- Help the child pursue the goals in their NDIS Plan.
- Be reasonably priced and the best value for money. For example, other options may provide the same outcome, but cost less.
- Not be the responsibility of any organisation or government service to provide (such as dental health or education).
- Not be considered "high risk", unsafe or likely to cause harm (an assessment is required before purchasing any high-risk items with NDIS funds, such as weighted blankets).

- Not be a day-to-day living cost that needs to be purchased by anyone else participating (such as class fees and paintbrushes for a painting class).

The NDIS has also developed a series of operational guidelines, which are a good reference and include examples of what they consider when funding particular supports. There are operational guidelines for prosthetics, hearing devices, assistance animals, disability-related health supports and home and vehicle modifications, which offer helpful examples of how funding decisions are made.

The operational guidelines can be found [here](#).

**Work with a plan manager
who puts people first.**



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Will the NDIS fund sporting equipment or membership fees?



Whether your child enjoys music concerts, wants to play sport or would like to learn how to paint – hobbies and interests are an opportunity for them to get active, make friends and learn new skills.

But what will the NDIS pay for when it comes to social and recreational activities? Can your child join a club? Will the NDIS pay for their sporting equipment? How about piano lessons?

Let's take a look at what you can and can't pay for with your child's NDIS funds, so you can plan their next activity with confidence.

About social and recreation supports.

Social and recreational activities are those that get your child out in the community, either with other children or for individual activities.

They may include things such as:

- Sports like tennis or basketball.
- Learning new skills such as playing an instrument, woodworking or photography.
- Relaxation classes like tai chi, meditation or yoga.
- Going to a concert or movies.
- Visiting friends or family.
- Going to museums or exhibitions.

Supports the NDIS may fund.

The NDIS may fund additional help or supports that your child needs to participate in an activity because of their disability.

These include:

- Specialised equipment or modification to equipment.
- Help to build their skills to take part in social and recreational activities.
- A support worker to help them participate in activities, such as help to get started, setting them up for activities or ongoing support.
- Help to travel to a recreational event when they can't use public transport and it's not reasonable for family or friends to take them.

As always, the "reasonable and necessary" test applies. NDIS funds can only be spent on supports that help your child reach their goals, are necessary *because of their disability*, offer value for money and are likely to be beneficial for your child.



What the NDIS generally won't fund.

The NDIS will not generally fund the cost of the activity itself. That's because other people have to pay these costs as well.

It won't fund:

- The cost of activities that everyone else pays for like entry fees, tickets, boat hire, uniforms and membership fees.
- Standard equipment required to participate, like sporting equipment.
- Participation in activities at a professional or elite level.
- Support for a child to participate where parents would normally be expected to stay and support their child.

Supports from family and friends.

The NDIS will consider reasonable supports that family and friends provide when funding social and recreation supports.

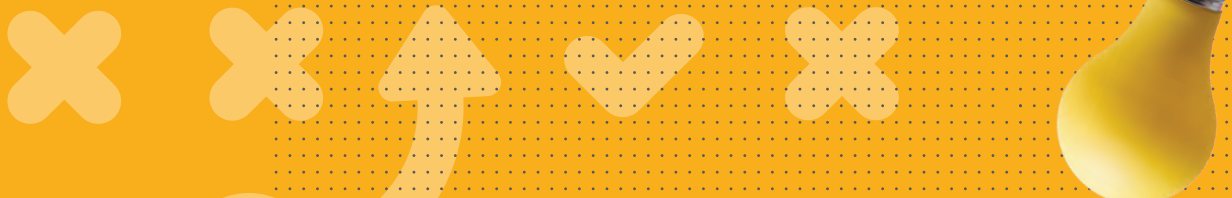
For children, the NDIS will consider:

- If a child needs extra support because of their disability compared to other children the same age.
- If parents would usually be expected to take their child to the activity.
- If the support helps to build capacity.

Good to know...

- Social and recreational supports will be included in an NDIS Plan if your child has a related goal.
- They are part of the *Core budget* category in your child's NDIS Plan, so can be used flexibly to get the help your child needs.
- The NDIS may also fund Assistive Technology to help your child to participate in activities. This funding will appear in your *Capital Supports* budget category.





Does the NDIS fund sensory equipment?

Sensory equipment can play an important role in development for children with a disability or sensory processing disorders.

But what types of sensory equipment will the NDIS fund? When is an assessment required and which budget category should it sit in?



Types of sensory equipment

Sensory equipment is a broad term that can include just about any item that can help a person to develop life skills or motor skills and enrich the senses.

It can include everyday items such as puzzles, specially designed toys or games, tools that support regulation or improve focus, and resources that build functional skills. Here are some examples:

Fine motor items

- Colour matching activities
- Finger puppets and finger isolation kits
- Cutting food activities
- Puzzles
- Shoelace tying activities

Writing and learning aids

- Pencil grips and pencil toppers
- Spring-assisted scissors
- Wrist weights

Gross motor skill supports

- Wobble cushions
- Scooter boards
- Swiss balls
- Elliptical jumping balls

Other

- Fidget toys such as squish balls
- Musical items such as maracas and bells
- Massage and acupressure balls and rollers



Sensory equipment and the NDIS

With a few exceptions, you can use your child's NDIS Plan to purchase low-cost sensory equipment if they have funding for Assistive Technology or Consumables.

If they have funding in either budget, you can purchase sensory equipment without a quote, providing the item:

- Is considered "reasonable and necessary".
- Is related to your child's disability.
- Costs less than \$1500.
- Is not considered to be "high risk" (see below for details).

Higher cost items such as multi-sensory room kits and wall panels may also be purchased with your child's NDIS funds.

The NDIS no longer needs quotes for A.T. items under \$15,000, but recommends you get advice from an A.T. assessor first.

High risk sensory equipment

The NDIS classifies several items as "high risk". These are items that may cause harm if they are not the correct or "best fit". This means they cannot be purchased using NDIS funds without prior approval (even when they cost less than \$1500).

High risk items require an occupational therapy risk assessment or prescription be completed and forwarded to the NDIS with recommendations of why the item is suitable, and how it will help your child achieve their goals or needs.

If the item is approved, the funds may be allocated as a stated item in the Assistive Technology budget (meaning it can only be used for this item) or approval given for you to use the Consumables budget in Core supports, depending on the cost.

Examples of high-risk items include:

- Mobility and postural support or correctional devices.
- Prosthetics and orthotics.

How to purchase sensory items

The process for purchasing sensory items depends on how you have chosen to manage your child's NDIS Plan.

If your child is Agency managed, you can only purchase from NDIS registered providers and the NDIS will pay your provider directly.

If you self-manage, you can purchase the item from the provider of your choice and claim the payment from the NDIS.

If you have a plan manager, you can purchase the item from the provider of your choice and your plan manager will pay your provider after receiving an invoice.

Purchasing sensory equipment online

Sensory equipment can be purchased from occupational therapists, other therapists, retail stores or online. An extensive range of sensory equipment is available for sale online.

Purchasing tips

- Ask for recommendations from family or friends and check reviews prior to purchasing from a new provider, especially if they are online.
- If your child's plan is Agency managed, check the provider is NDIS registered – some providers are only registered in some states.
- Check the returns and refunds policy prior to purchase.



Thinking outside the therapy box

Diverse therapy options for kids

Therapies have changed significantly in recent years, with new techniques and technologies emerging alongside traditional methods.

Here are some therapy options and activities you may not have tried, as yet!

Hydrotherapy

The therapeutic use of water can be beneficial for children with cerebral palsy and autism, improving respiratory control, coordination, strength and relaxation. For children with restricted movement, hydrotherapy can offer freedom of movement and free play.

Scooter boards

Build upper and lower body strength as well as core strength and coordination. Scooter boards are loads of fun and there are plenty of activities to try, depending on the age and ability of your child.

Therapy at the beach

Therapy that doesn't 'feel' like therapy is good for you and your child. Whether you live near the beach, or only get to visit during holidays, there are easy ways to incorporate therapy without your kids even knowing!

Occupational therapy

An occupational therapist (OT) can assist with modifications to daily tasks, Assistive Technology and increasing confidence in social situations. Some OTs work in educational settings where they support children to learn more effectively.

Sandplay therapy

Sandplay therapy involves creating miniature worlds and stories from a tray of sand, small objects and water. It can be particularly effective for young children who cannot express their feelings in words.

Equine assisted therapy

Equine assisted therapy involves interactions with horses that can improve physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

Listening therapy

Listening therapy is a sound-based intervention using music to stimulate the senses and improve communication. It can assist brain development, improve self-regulation and aid impulse control.



* This list has been created to provide a starting point for you to research options that may suit your child and should be considered in the context of NDIS' 'reasonable and necessary' assessment for your child's individual supports.



Garden therapy

Garden therapy can increase independence, improve movement, enhance skills and coordination, improve creativity and build confidence. It includes a range of activities including planting, tending, digging and building.

Play therapy

Play therapy allows a child to 'play out' their inner thoughts or real-life experiences. Play therapists use play to assist children to express and explore their feelings, needs and behaviours while supporting them to achieve optimal growth and development.

Balance boards

Ideal for developing coordination, balance and posture. Different types of boards are available and can be joined together to build a bridge or used individually.

Spider cage

A suspension system that uses a belt and bungee cords to support the child to complete balance and strengthening exercises. Fun and exciting, spider cage therapy is directed towards achieving functional goals and supports independent movement.

Speech and language therapy

A speech therapist can assist with voice and vocal habits, stuttering, speech sounds, mealtimes and swallowing, communication aids and literacy.

Therapy at the park

Heading to the park can be therapy in disguise with loads of activities to explore such as monkey bars, ladders, beams, climbing frames, swings and more.

Art therapy

Art therapy can have many benefits including improved creativity and self-esteem, increased self-empowerment, increased self-awareness, reduced anxiety and enhanced mind-body connection.

Physiotherapy

Physiotherapy can be helpful for managing pain and improving mobility, as well as supporting participation in sports and recreational activities.

Music therapy

Music therapy can provide relaxation, mood regulation and foster an interest in music and instruments. It has been shown to increase positive moods and social engagement, as well as support sensory processing.

Assistance animals

More than just furry friends, assistance animals can support people with a disability to live safely, become more independent and complete everyday tasks. An assistance animal is trained to perform tasks or behaviours that reduce the functional impacts of a person's disability.

Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT)

CBT focuses on how thoughts and emotions affect behaviour. The therapist helps your child replace negative thoughts with more productive thought patterns, helping them to better handle stressful situations and control impulsivity and self-defeating thoughts. 5



Essential reading

for any parent of a
child with a disability.



Download the FREE
ebooks today!



Future planning: A guide for parents and carers is just one of a host of free, informative and valuable resources available on the Leap in! website. Check out our ebook series, which continues to grow.

And while you're there, explore the huge library of stories in the **News** section of the website all about living with a disability and the NDIS. Subscribe to our weekly enews to get stories straight to your inbox.

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BUSTING THE MYTHS ON NON-REGISTERED PROVIDERS

The NDIS offers the freedom and flexibility to choose how to manage your child's NDIS Plan and funds to suit their strengths and preferences.

Using non-registered providers opens up an extensive network of supports and services that can help your child reach their goals.

Our friends at Leap in! bust some myths about using non-registered providers, giving you the confidence to choose the right supports for you and your family.



Registered and non-registered providers: What's the difference?

A registered provider is an individual or a business registered with the NDIS to provide supports or services to people on the NDIS. Registered providers need to go through checks to ensure they meet NDIS guidelines.

A non-registered provider is an individual or business that provides supports or services and is not registered with the NDIS (although they must follow the NDIS Code of Conduct). Some examples might include private businesses, independent support workers, non-profit organisations, online stores, retail shops and allied health professionals.

Reasons you may want to use a non-registered provider.

- To broaden your choice of providers.
- Registered providers in your area can't take on new clients.
- You worked with a provider before moving to the NDIS and they are not NDIS-registered.
- You found a support worker or allied health professional you like, who is not registered with the NDIS.
- You need an item only available through a non-registered provider (such as a shop or online).

MYTH #1:

I can only use providers that are registered with the NDIS.

FACT:

The providers you can use depends on how your NDIS Plan is managed.

If you choose plan management or choose to self-manage your child's plan, you can use registered or non-registered providers.

If you have a combination plan, you have the flexibility to use registered or non-registered providers for the portion that's self-managed or plan managed.

If you're Agency managed, you can only use NDIS-registered providers.



MYTH #2:

Non-registered providers are less qualified or experienced.

FACT:

Many non-registered providers are highly qualified and experienced in their fields.

Whether a provider is registered or non-registered is unrelated to their qualifications or experience. The NDIS has a process that needs to be worked through to become registered and there is a cost involved.

Many non-registered providers are highly qualified, such as occupational therapists or speech therapists. Others sell items recommended by someone with relevant qualifications or a registered provider (such as fidget toys purchased online).

Whether you use a registered or non-registered provider, it is worth checking on their qualifications and service reviews to help assess if they're the right fit for you. Google or Facebook reviews are an excellent place to start.

MYTH #3:

I can't use sole traders or small businesses for services like therapy, support work, gardening, cleaning or learning activities.

FACT:

You can use sole traders or small businesses if you have plan management or self-manage.

If you use a plan manager, self manage or have a combination of the two, you can pay sole traders or other small businesses with your NDIS funds if the support is "reasonable and necessary". Examples include online stores that sell Assistive Technology, physical shops that sell consumable items such as nappies or nutrition aids and support workers who may work independently.

All businesses need is an Australian Business Number (ABN). It's worth checking if individuals hired have relevant qualifications and credentials (such as Working With Children Checks).

The payment process depends on whether you are plan managed or self-manage.





MYTH #4:

I can't change how my child's plan is managed between plans.

FACT:

You can change how your child's plan is managed at any time.

You can switch by calling the NDIS or your Local Area Coordinator and requesting a light-touch review. Alternatively, you can wait until your next Plan Review meeting.

If you're Agency managed and want the flexibility to use any provider for one budget area, you can choose to have only that portion of your budget plan managed (or self-manage). For example, if you want to use an unregistered therapist for Capacity Building supports, you may decide to change to plan management for this budget only.

MYTH #5:

Unregistered providers cost more.

FACT:

Unregistered providers can cost more or less.

The NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Pricing Limits guide determines how much you can claim for services and supports paid for by NDIS funding, usually at an hourly rate.

NDIS-registered providers are unable to charge more than the NDIS price limits.

Non-registered providers can charge less than, more than or the same as the approved price limit.

We recommend negotiating a service agreement with each provider (registered and non-registered) to confirm costs, cancellation policy, and other conditions before service provision.

MYTH #6:

If I am Agency managed, I get more help with my NDIS Plan.

FACT:

If you are Agency managed, then the NDIA manages your plan.

If you choose to have a plan manager, they will provide support to help you get the most from your NDIS plan.

You also have the freedom to use registered and non-registered providers and will have all your provider invoices paid for you. **6**





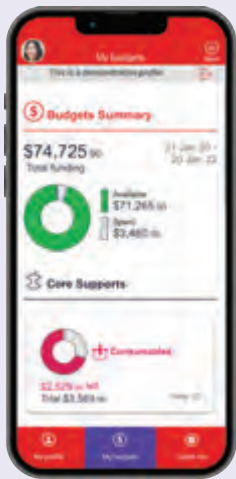
How the Leap in! app can help you to keep track of your NDIS spending.

Carefully managing your NDIS funds is important for two reasons. If you don't use all your NDIS funding in the period it is allocated, it doesn't automatically roll into your next Plan. And, if you overspend too early, you're left without funds for the rest of the year.

That's where the 'My Budgets' section of the Leap in! app can help – so you'll always know how you are tracking.



TRACK YOUR SPENDING IN REAL TIME WITH 'MY BUDGETS'



Keep track of your NDIS funding in one place with the app's easy to navigate dashboards. The dashboards work in a similar way to online banking, so you can clearly see your budgets in real time, 24 hours a day. The Budgets Summary screen makes tracking spending simple.

Our example member, Rachel Wang, can quickly view the status of all her funding at a glance (see screenshot above).

- Rachel has \$74,725.90 in total funding
- She has spent \$3,460
- She has \$71,265.90 remaining.

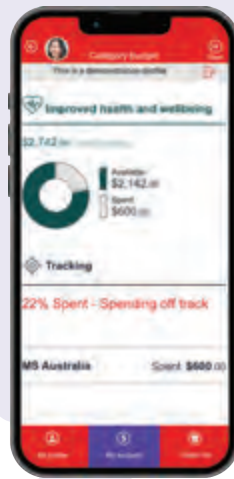


Under Core supports, Rachel can see how much she has left to spend in each category.

- **Consumables:** Rachel has a total budget of \$3,589.00 and \$2,529 left to spend.
- **Assistance with daily living:** Rachel has a total budget of \$47,000 and has \$46,900 left.

- **Assistance with social and community participation:** Rachel has a total budget of \$8,900 and \$8,500 remaining.

FIND OUT IF YOUR SPENDING IS ON TRACK



The Leap in! app allows you to quickly check if you're on the right track with spending for each budget. Reviewing this section regularly helps you to manage funding for the whole year to avoid running out of funding early or not using all of your NDIS budgets.

Let's take a look at Capacity Building – Improved health and wellbeing on Rachel Wang's profile (see image above):

- You can see that Rachel's spending in this category is 'off track' with only 22% of available funding spent, relative to how long she has had this plan.

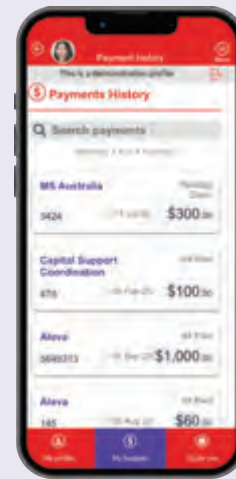
GETTING YOUR SPENDING BACK ON TRACK

If your spending in a category is 'off track' and you have unspent funds, you can use the app to find and contact providers in that category.

- Click on 'Show me providers that service my region'
- Choose from the list of providers
- Click 'Enquire' to send them a message. The app automatically adds contact details to make it easier.



RECORD ALL YOUR EXPENSES



Keeping track of your expenses is simple – just go to payments history to view invoices that have already been paid with your NDIS funding. You can also review previous NDIS Plans including allocated budgets and expenses by budget category.

CLAIM AND APPROVE INVOICES

The Leap in! app helps you manage every aspect of your NDIS budget, including provider invoices and payments:

- Review and approve provider invoices for payment
- Check the progress of invoices and claims
- View payment history.

They can also set you up to review or automatically approve all or just some provider's claims to save time.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPLORE THE APP FURTHER?

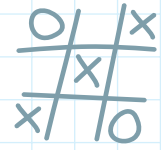
You can download the app and use the planning section for free. Sign up at the App Store, Google Play or [online](#).

We also have demo profiles you can explore – click on 'Explore the app' on the Welcome screen.

HOW TO GET FULL ACCESS TO THE LEAP IN! APP

You get full access to the Leap in! planning and budgeting app when you sign up for Leap in! plan management.

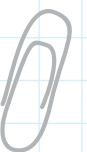
Find out more by calling 1300 05 78 78, emailing crew@leapin.com.au or use the chat function on Leap in!'s website!

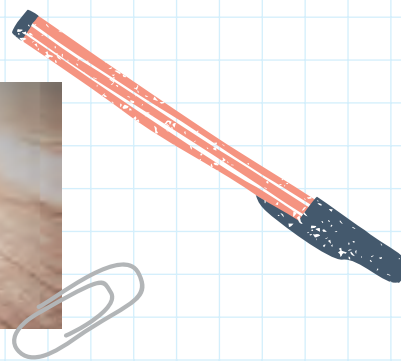


CAN THE NDIS HELP MY CHILD AT SCHOOL?



The NDIS does fund a range of supports that can help your child at school, but it can be tricky to get your head around which supports are NDIS-funded and which are provided by the school system.





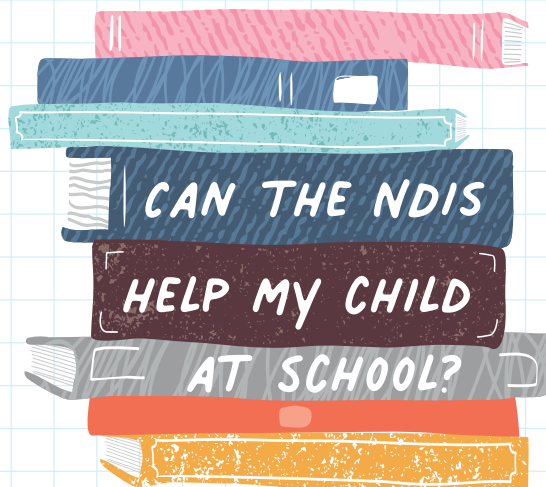
NDIS VERSUS SCHOOL-PROVIDED SUPPORTS.

Under the Disability Standards for Education, an education provider must take reasonable steps to ensure that students with disabilities can participate and use the facilities and services provided, on the same basis as a student without a disability, and without experiencing discrimination.^[1]

School-based funding is provided for students in state, independent and Catholic schools, although the programs and the amounts of funding available vary. It's best to refer to your child's school for information on the structure and types of support available.

The NDIS is designed to provide supports and services that are not funded by other mainstream or government services (including school programs).

As the school system provides some services that can be accessed to support the education of children with disability, the NDIS only provides funding for certain supports.



SCHOOL SUPPORTS THE NDIS MAY FUND.

Self-care

Additional self-care at school related to the student's disability. For example, a support worker to assist with eating or toileting. Some self-care supports may be funded by the school, so it is best to start with the school system first.

Teacher training

Specialised training of teachers and other staff about the specific personal support needs of a student with disability.

Transport

Specialist transport required because of the student's disability.

Assistive Technology

Transportable equipment such as a wheelchair or some personal communication devices, other than standard educational tools such as laptops or iPads.

Therapy supports

Therapies not connected with the student's education that are mutually agreed by the family and school and are provided during school time. School funding may also have some therapy supports available, so we recommend discussing this with them first.

WHAT THE NDIS DOES NOT FUND.

- School fees.
- School uniforms.
- Supports that assist with education or school work.
- Everyday supplies that all students use such as pens, textbooks, exercise books, rulers, stationery etc.
- School excursions and activities etc.
- Sporting equipment and musical instruments.



SUPPORTS FUNDED BY THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

- Teachers, learning assistants and other supports such as Auslan interpreters.
- General support, resources and training for teachers and staff.
- Therapy delivered in schools for education or training purposes, such as allied health practitioners helping teachers adjust curriculum.
- Aids and equipment to make curriculum accessible, such as modified computer hardware, software and Braille textbooks.
- Some personal care supports such as helping at meal times (see below).
- Adjustments to buildings such as ramps, lifts and hearing loops.
- Transport for educational or training activities such as excursions, field trips and sporting carnivals.
- Day-to-day supervision and behavioural support.^[2]

See the [NDIS education page](#) for details.



PERSONAL CARE IN SCHOOLS AND YOUR CHILD'S NDIS PLAN.

If your child is school-aged, their NDIS Plan may include the item "Personal care in schools". This acknowledges that the child receives personal care supports at school paid for by the relevant state or territory government.

The school is responsible for delivering this service and sets out the supports provided, when they are received, and how much support the child receives in the classroom. Educational supports are treated separately to personal care and not included in this funding. ⑤

References:

- [1] Federal register of Legislation, Disability Standards for Education 2005, under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, accessed 28 April 2022.
[2] Education, NDIS; published online 29 November 2021

Do you have Assistive Technology questions?



ASK A PLAN MANAGER!

Assistive Technology is such a broad term that can include everything from adaptive cutlery to motorised wheelchairs and even home modifications. With different types, values and risk levels, it can be hard to get your head around A.T.

Luckily, experienced Leap in! plan manager Tabitha. can answer some of the most-frequently asked questions about A.T., so that our children and young adults can benefit from the wide-ranging technology available.

CAN YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THE NEW \$15,000 LIMIT FOR A.T. WORKS?

Recent changes to the NDIS make it easier to purchase Assistive Technology (A.T.) with your NDIS funds, providing you meet the requirements.

The upper limit for automatic approval of Assistive Technology purchases has increased from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

Providing you have the relevant evidence, and the funding in your Plan budget, the NDIS will automatically approve funding for A.T. items up to \$15,000. No quote is required. However, you will need to obtain a letter or report from an A.T. advisor outlining the item, how it will assist and why it is the best value for money.

MY CHILD IS USING SOME APPS AS PART OF THEIR THERAPY SESSIONS. CAN I PURCHASE A MOBILE PHONE OR TABLET WITH THEIR NDIS FUNDS?

The NDIS won't usually pay for a tablet or mobile phone to run apps or Assistive Technology, even if an A.T. advisor or therapist supplies a letter of recommendation. These items are considered day-to-day living costs or general household appliances that the NDIS doesn't fund in most cases.

The NDIS says it may only fund such a device if it is "solely and directly" related to the person's disability needs. For example, if the device is the only way the child can communicate.

Apps related directly to your child's support needs or goals can be purchased with NDIS funds. The NDIS won't usually fund gift cards for iTunes or Google Play, so it is best to buy apps yourself and obtain reimbursement.

CAN I USE MY CHILD'S NDIS FUNDING TO TRIAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY BEFORE BUYING?

With so many different brands and options for A.T., you'll sometimes want to test an item before buying or renting. Some providers will let you try a product at no cost.

If a longer trial is required, or the provider has to travel to adjust the item, you can use your child's NDIS funds to pay for these costs.

The NDIS has developed a guide of the expected prices for common items trialled or rented with NDIS funds. You can find it [here](#) as a download.



DOES "HIGHER RISK" A.T. REFER TO ITEMS THAT COST MORE?

Good question! The NDIS has two "product" risk categories for Assistive Technology: low risk and higher risk.

While higher risk technology is often more expensive, this is not always the case. For example, bedsticks, transfer aids, postural supports, orthotics and many pressure care items may fall under the Low Cost A.T. category, but are still considered higher risk.

Higher risk items are generally more complex and often require personalised setup. For this reason, advice from an A.T. advisor or assessor is required before purchase. The NDIS will not fund some high risk items such as trampolines or swings.

MY SON'S SCHOOL SAYS I NEED TO USE HIS NDIS FUNDS TO PAY FOR A.T. TO SUPPORT HIS LEARNING AT SCHOOL. IS THAT RIGHT?

While the NDIS may fund some types of Assistive Technology that will help your child at school, the education system is responsible for providing at-school supports and ensuring your child can access the curriculum.

Schools are responsible for providing:

- Modified software/hardware required for classroom subjects.
- Braille textbooks.
- Building modifications (such as ramps to classrooms).
- Non-transportable equipment for your child that remains in the classroom.
- Specialised school furniture.
- Bathroom supports.

The NDIS funds A.T. that the student needs regardless of whether they are at school or not, such as hearing aids, wheelchairs or specialised communication devices.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH A.T. FUNDED BY THE NDIS THAT IS NO LONGER NEEDED?

If you have purchased the equipment, you can take it to a service in the community that accepts and refurbishes used equipment or donate it to charity. If it is under a lease agreement, you will need to arrange to return it to the provider. Depending on the item, you may also be able to sell it privately.

IN HER NEXT NDIS PLAN, MY DAUGHTER NEEDS SEVERAL NEW LOW-COST A.T. ITEMS TO HELP HER ACHIEVE HER GOAL OF BEING MORE INDEPENDENT AT HOME. HOW DO I KNOW HOW MUCH TO ASK FOR?

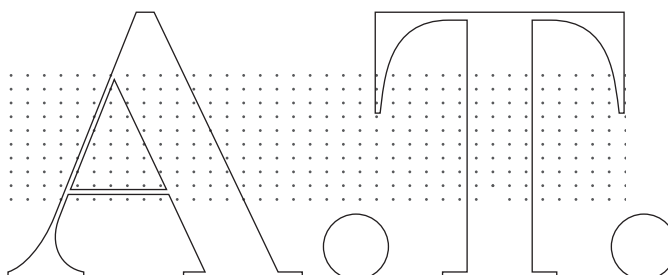
The NDIS has a useful guide for low cost A.T. support funding (you can find it [here](#) as a download). For example, allow around \$50 each for everyday items such as adapted grip cutlery and non-slip bathmats, or \$150 for elbow crutches.

If the items needed are not listed, make a note of how they will help your daughter achieve her goals, a brief description and an approximate cost to take to your next Plan meeting.

Keep in mind that any A.T. purchased by the NDIS must be value for money, and the NDIS will often explore lower cost options, if they're available.

Do you have a question you'd like us to answer or a topic you would like us to dive into? We'd love to hear from you. Send your question to mystory@leapin.com.au 📧

Leap in! can help you navigate the NDIS and get the most from your child's plan. They also take care of all the time-consuming bookkeeping! Call them on 1300 05 78 78 to learn more about plan management.





LATEST inclusive products

Innovation and creativity are fuelling an increasing number of cool, inclusive products hitting the market. Here are some of our favourites that may help to make life a little bit easier (and a lot more fun!!!)

Nike Dynamo Go



The ultimate hands-free shoes, Nike Dynamo Go, are designed with accessibility in mind. Thanks to the slip-on design and flexible heel, they're quick and easy to get into.

Available for babies/toddlers and younger kids, we love the fun, bright colours. (Check out Nike FlyEase for teenagers or young adults.)

nike.com.au

Routine charts – CPA Challenger Routine Planner

Need some help establishing a routine at your place? These structured daily and weekly schedules from the Cerebral Palsy Alliance help the entire family get organised.

Simply print and cut to create your custom schedule, including wake up and bedtimes, breaks, therapy, creative time, family time and learning time. Activities are colour-coded for ease of identification.

The Superlearners planner is designed for ages 0 to 12, and the For Challengers planner is for ages 13 to 30.

Superlearner: cerebralpalsy.org.au

Challenger: cerebralpalsy.org.au



Looking for a not-for-profit

plan manager?



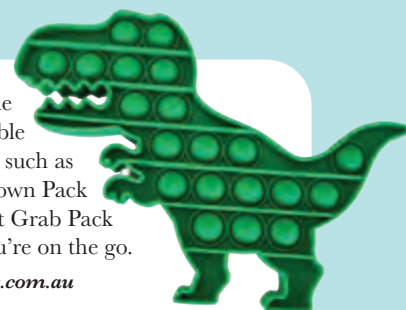
Happy Hubble sensory toys

Mum Simone Hubble went to great lengths to find the tools to support her three autistic kids. Eventually, she designed her own and Happy Hubble sensory and fidget toys was born. Visit the online store for fidget packs, chewy toys, books and much more.



Start with the Happy Hubble fidget packs, such as the Calm Down Pack or the Fidget Grab Pack for when you're on the go.

happyhubble.com.au



Pjama



School trips, camping trips and sleepovers are back! Pjama is the ultimate washable bedwetting nightwear. Liquid remains in the pants or shorts while the outside (and the bed) remains dry. They're functional, discreet and comfortable.

Designed in Australia specifically for sleeping, Pjamas have a breathable waterproof membrane and are made from super absorbent material.

pjama.com.au



Xbox adaptive controller

Designed primarily to meet the needs of gamers with limited mobility, the Xbox Adaptive Controller features large programmable buttons and connects to external switches, buttons, mounts and joysticks to help make gaming more accessible. The controller requires external devices for gameplay (sold separately).

microsoft.com.au



TUBE FEEDING ON THE GO

These Tubiefun modified backpacks are fantastic for any Tubie on the move or on continuous feeds. The side opening allows for easy access to tubing and an internal Velcro strap secures the bottle.

The pump is placed into the large front pocket, which opens into the main food storage section. Tubiefun backpacks are also compatible with Z & Co. reusable pouches.

tubiefun.com.au

At Leap in!

we put people first.



Leap in!

1300 05 78 78
leapin.com.au

LATEST inclusive products

Have you discovered
a new accessible or
inclusive product you love?
Let us know so we can
share it with our community.
Send your ideas to
mystory@leapin.com.au

LET'S BUILD SOMETHING!

Nook takes play to a whole new level. The original Australian modular play sofa, Nook is made from 10 individual pieces for limitless imaginative play.

Nook is somewhere to imagine, play, relax, connect and even sleep. An Aussie family developed the Good Design Award® Gold Winner during lockdown, inspired by forts, space stations and quiet reading retreats made from household furniture, cushions and blankets.

Configure the cushions into a racing car, digger, jeep, gecko, spaceship, rocket, or have double the fun with two nooks for a circus tent, glamperv or police truck. And when the fun is over, rearrange the Nook to a more adult configuration such as a cinema lounge or double bed.

mynook.com.au



Stop losing hats and jumpers

Designed by a speech pathologist as a practical tool to develop independence for children, Remindables® are colourful, clip-on tags that easily attach to a bag or backpack.



Over
90 tags
available

Colour-coded and featuring an image and word, they help remind kids what to pack for the day, and also, what needs to return home. You'll be wondering where these have been all your life!

Over 90 tags are available, representing items commonly left behind – such as a jumper, a hat, event reminders like swimming practice or even items such as an EpiPen. Allergy alert options and blanks are also available. The starter set comes with a strap and 10 tags, which you can choose to suit your child.

reminables.com.au

BUTTS Undies with Attitude



Bright, bold and fun, BUTTST™ Undies with Attitude are designed to improve the lives of children with incontinence. Dual inserts provide maximum absorbency and will last two to four hours for day use.

Choose from a range of colourful prints made from skin-friendly materials. They are a machine washable, reusable alternative to single-use products.

brighterneeds.com.au

UNPAIRED: THE SINGLE SHOES WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

If your child has different sized feet or only needs one shoe, this one is for you! Unpaired is a range of funky, practical footwear by adaptive clothing company EveryHuman. Now you can buy single shoes of different sizes and widths that are comfortable and orthotic friendly. Buy individual shoes or build a pair.

They come in funky, kid-friendly styles, including an extensive range of sports shoes and canvas sneakers.

Even better, they're more cost-effective than many other adaptable alternatives.

everyhuman.com.au



Truly Wicked Wheelchairs

Wicked Wheelchairs provide custom-made wheelchairs that express individuality and style, while remaining functional and practical. We met the team at a Source Kids Disability Expo and were impressed by their Aussie-made manual, power-assisted and sports wheelchairs.

wickedwheelchairs.com.au



Lego Braille Bricks have landed!

The wait is finally over – Lego® Braille Bricks are here. Each brick has raised bumps that correspond to a letter or character of the braille alphabet.

Vision Australia distributes the bricks to schools and education departments with eligible students aged between four and 18. Educators can register their interest to learn more and access webinars and resources. The Lego® website has loads of activities and teaching materials to create playful braille lesson plans.

visionaustralia.org



GROW YOUR OWN FOOD WITH VEGEPOD

Gardening is an excellent form of therapy that also teaches kids so much about where our food comes from. Vegepods are an ideal way to start, with no mess and no fuss.

This raised garden bed kit is self-watering, elevated and portable, so it's perfect for renters, small yards, courtyards or even apartments. It can easily be raised to waist height (up to 80cm) with the accompanying Vegepod stand.

You can grow just about anything in the pods, but they're best for salad greens, herbs, silverbeet and most winter veggies.

vegepod.com.au



Sensory play table with tubs

Let their imaginations run wild with a Sensory Play Table from Pippy Play Designs, complete with a storage shelf and washable tubs. Pippy Play Designs is a small, family-owned business in Newcastle, NSW. As each item is made to order, you can customise your table with a bench seat, lids and preferred height.

Just add water, sand, rice, dried pasta, playdough, mud, rocks, slime, blocks or anything else for hours of fun indoors or outdoors (needs to be painted or sealed before outdoor use).

pippypaydesigns.com.au



A shark you'll be happy to see

The Sharky is a compact, easy-to-use bathroom chair for children who require postural support to safely meet their hygiene care needs. The Sharky can be easily moved from the toilet to the shower or the bath without other tools or adjustments.

Your child can remain seated while being cleaned and the Sharky avoids unnecessary transfers, making bath time safer and easier for everyone. Simply fold it away to a compact 28cm high when not in use.

medifab.com.au 



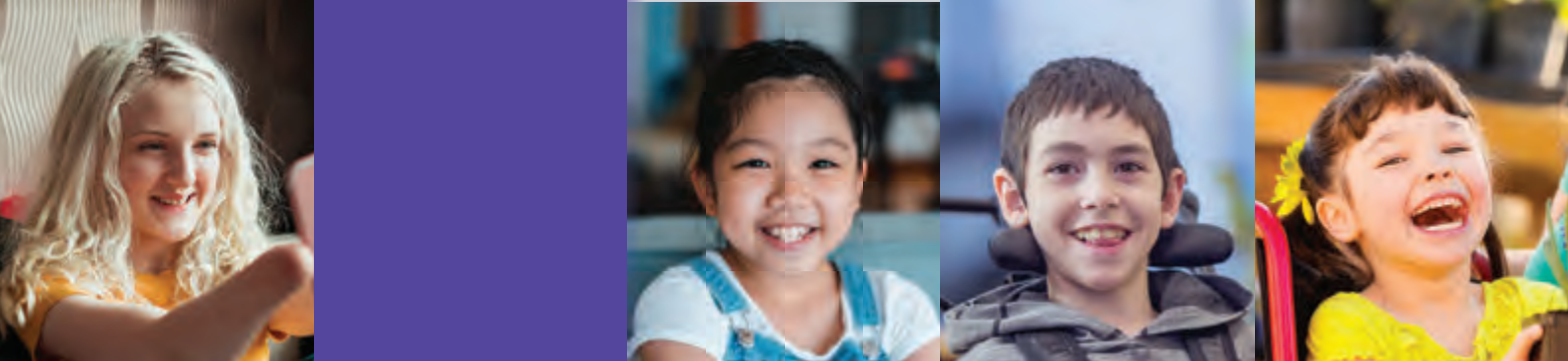
ONE SEAT...COUNTLESS POSSIBILITIES



The FireFly GoTo postural support seat makes everyday tasks easier for children aged one to eight with additional needs. Kids get to see the world from a new perspective and feel they're at the heart of the action.

Use this lightweight, portable postural support solution in shopping trolleys, on swings, planes, trikes, dining tables, cinemas and more. Every seat comes with a pressure cushion and a floor sitter with 26 recline positions. The adjustability makes it easy to reposition the headrest and lateral supports as your child grows.

fireflyfriends.com.au



Did you know not all NDIS plan managers are the same?

At Leap in! some of the things we do differently include:

- ✓ Tailored advice from a team experienced in the NDIS and the Early Childhood Approach
- ✓ Smart connections to providers with capacity
- ✓ Monthly *NDIS Budget Health Checks*
- ✓ Real time 24/7 access to all your NDIS info and budgets
- ✓ A huge library of FREE NDIS-related resources
- ✓ **PLUS** get access to the exclusive L! Member Benefits Club – offers and discounts on big brands.

Proud partner
of Source Kids.



Leap in!

Australia's leading
NDIS plan manager and
proudly not-for-profit.

📞 1300 05 78 78
📱 leapin.com.au