

Early Childhood - NDIS

NAVIGATING THE NDIS - BUDGETS AND SUPPORT CATEGORIES

Understanding the different budgets and support categories¹

There are three different types of reasonable and necessary support budget categories that your child may be funded for:

- 1) Core Budget
- 2) Capacity Building Budget
- 3) Capital Support Budget

This factsheet explains how these support budgets can be used in your child's care.

Core Support Budget

This provides flexible funding for support around your child's everyday life and current disability-related needs. It includes the following categories²:

- Consumables (e.g. continence aids)
- Daily activities (e.g. assistance with self-care)
- Assistance with social and community participation (e.g. support with swimming).

Here's an example of how the core support budget can be used:

John is a 5-year-old boy with cerebral palsy who lives with his father and two siblings. John is allocated \$10,000 in his core support budget. His father can use this money flexibly to purchase consumables, hire a support worker to help John with his daily activities, and assist John to engage with the community. His father can choose how many hours of funding John will need in each category to meet his goals. John's support workers help him work towards his goals in this plan.

Capacity Building Budget

This provides funding for your child to achieve the goals in their plan. It includes categories that will provide:

- Assessments and training to improve daily living (e.g. occupational therapy)
- Assessments and training to improve relationships (e.g. positive behaviour support from psychologists)
- Funding for a Plan Manager, which allows the family choice and control over the funding.

A full list of supports can be found on the [NDIS website](#).

The funding in this budget usually cannot be moved from one category to another. Here's an example of how the capacity building budget can be used:

Anna is a 3-year-old with Autism Spectrum Disorder and severe behavioural concerns who lives with her parents and older sibling. Anna's parents decided to use a Plan Manager to manage Anna's plan. Anna was allocated \$10,960.65 in the capacity building budget of her plan, which went towards:

- \$1,536.45 – Improved life choices – stated funding for the Plan Manager
- \$3,585.20 – Improved daily living – funding for occupational therapist and speech pathologist
- \$5,839.00 – Improved Relationships – stated funding for a psychologist

Although Anna's parents can access speech pathology, occupational therapy and a psychologist, they cannot use the money allocated for a psychologist to pay for a speech pathologist. They also can't use the money allocated for improved daily living to pay for someone to support Anna in the community.

Capital Support Budget

This will only fund home modifications and assistive technologies, and can't be spent on anything else. A better understanding of these products and services can be found [here](#)³.

Frequently asked questions

What is stated support?

This is funding that has been allocated for a specific service or support. It can't be used to fund anything other than that service or support.

Where can I find a list of the supports and their cost?

A full range of supports and costs can be found in the NDIS price guide². The NDIA releases a new price guide every financial year. You should be aware that prices may vary according to the state or territory that you live in.

1. <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/creating-your-plan/plan-budget-and-rules>
2. <https://www.ndis.gov.au/providers/price-guides-and-information>
3. <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/home-equipment-and-supports>