

What is 'Reasonable and Necessary'?

The NDIS provides funding to participants for support and services aimed at increasing their independence, inclusion, and social and economic participation.

Reasonable and necessary is a term used to determine what kind of funded support you might need. Simply put - reasonable is something that is considered fair, and necessary is something that you need because of your disability. This can be very confusing as everyone interprets differently.

These supports and services must meet certain criteria based on section 32 of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (NDIS Act).

The NDIS may ask you to determine how you justify purchasing products, services and items as reasonable and necessary from your NDIS funds, it is important to provide them with as much evidence as you can to confirm the reasoning for your choice.

When you attend your NDIS planning meeting, the NDIA Planner or Local Area Coordinator or ECIC will collect information about you to build your plan to include supports that NDIS considers are reasonable and necessary to your situation and help you pursue your goals and aspirations.

Your NDIS Planner determines reasonable and necessary as everyone's situation, disability and goals are different this means that what NDIS considers reasonable and necessary for you will be different for someone else and likewise, what they consider reasonable and necessary to someone else will be different to you.

There are some things that may not be considered as 'reasonable and necessary', like:

- Day-to-day living costs that are not related to your disability support needs
- Supports that can reasonably be given by a family member, carer, or the wider community
- Supports already funded by other areas of government

This checklist and guide will assist you to break down the criteria that the NDIS uses when determining if a support, product or service you're seeking meets the definition NDIS considers to be reasonable and necessary to your personal situation.

For a support to be reasonable and necessary, it should:

- Relate to your disability**
- Help you pursue your goals and aspirations**
- Increase your independence**
- Increase your community, social and workplace involvement**
- Be considered value for money (this is especially true if the support is priced above the NDIS Price Guide)**
- Be effective and work for your needs**
- Take into account your current formal and informal supports**

If you answered yes to all of the questions then you may be able to make the purchase using your NDIS funds.