

Reasonable & Necessary Quick Guide

WHAT IS REASONABLE & NECESSARY -

The NDIS funds a range of supports and services which may include education, employment, social participation, independence, living arrangements and health and wellbeing.

In order to be considered reasonable and necessary, a support or service:

- must be related to a participant's disability
- must not include day-to-day living costs not related to your disability support needs, such as groceries
- should represent value for money
- must be likely to be effective and work for the participant, and
- should take into account support given to you by other government services, your family, carers, networks and the community.

A participant's reasonable and necessary supports take into account any informal supports already available to the individual (informal arrangements that are part of family life or natural connections with friends and community services) as well as other formal supports, such as health and education.

These supports will help participants to:

- pursue their goals, objectives and aspirations
- increase their independence
- increase community and workplace participation, and
- develop their capacity to actively take part in the community.

Who Gets to Decide if Something is Reasonable & Necessary (also known as Section 34) –

- Many **NDIA Planners** (though not all) have the **authority** to approve the budgets in the plans they write.
- **Local Area Coordinators** do not have the authority to decide
- **Participants** do not have this authority. But they should make their best effort to spend

their funds in line with the criteria

- **Plan Managers** do not have this authority and should not reject payment requests on this basis.

As a support coordinator, we can -

- Help you decide what services match your goals & funding and would be of benefit
- Support you to appeal decisions made by NDIS

Interpretation -

There is no secret list of which supports are Reasonable & Necessary, as they vary from person to person, depending on their individual needs. Many decisions will be a matter of interpretation.

- Will it support you to pursue the goals, objectives and aspirations included in your plan?**
- Will it help you to undertake activities to facilitate your social and economic participation**
- Is it value for money? E.g. is it the cheapest version of the most effective item; is it cheaper than the supports currently used in its place long term. NDIS will only fund AT to the minimum necessary or standard level**
- The support will be, or is likely to be, effective and beneficial for the Participant, having regard to current good practice**
- The funding or provision of the support takes account of what it is reasonable to expect families, carers, informal networks and the community to provide.**
- The support is most appropriately funded or provided through the NDIS**



How does the NDIA decide whether expectations are reasonable?

There is no list of describing which supports informal networks are expected to provide at different ages. However, there are considerations the NDIA must take into account

For A Child -

The NDIA will take into consideration:

- that it is pretty normal for parents to provide substantial care for children.
- whether the child has substantially increased care needs due to their disability.
- if there are any risks to the child's family members or carers. For example, physical health risks resulting from exhaustion or burn-out.
- whether funding a support for the family would improve the child's future capacity.

For An Adult -

The NDIA will take into consideration:

- if there are any risks posed to the participant because of their reliance on informal supports. For example, whether this makes the participant vulnerable to exploitation or abuse.
- the sustainability of informal support networks, including consideration of the carer's age and capacity, the intensity of support required and risks to the wellbeing of carers or family members.
- whether informal supports are contributing to or reducing the participant's independence.
- whether it is appropriate for the informal support to provide such care

For example, it may not be appropriate for an adult participant's parent, partner, sibling or friend to provide them with personal care as this is not a



reasonable expectation and can have an impact on the relationship shared between the participant and their informal supports/loved ones, by changing the dynamic from Family/friend to Carer and patient.

For All Participants -

The NDIA will take into consideration:

- how the NDIS can support informal networks to maintain their support role.

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Resources

- NDIS Booklet 3 – Understanding Your Plan, details how can come to a decision on what you can use your plan for. <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/publications/booklets-and-factsheets>
 - The NDIS also have many other useful booklets and fact sheet available, via the above link.
- If you would like to watch a video on Reasonable and Necessary you can do so on the NDIS website: Understanding the NDIS > Supports funded by the NDIS <https://www.ndis.gov.au/understanding/supports-funded-ndis/reasonable-and-necessary-supports>
- You can also order printed copies of the standard, Easy Read and braille booklets via the NDIS websites chat function or by calling the NDIS on 1800 800 110.