


Can I use NDIS funding to purchase a Tablet, Computer or other smart device?

NDIS funding generally cannot be used for the purchase of smart devices such as tablets and computers unless there is a clear justification related to your disability needs. Most of these items are considered everyday expenses that everyone has to manage, and the NDIS typically does not cover these costs.

Everyday Smart Devices and Technology Costs

The NDIA says that some items are everyday costs. If you want to buy these items for fun or if they aren't related to your disability, you cannot use NDIS funding for them.

The supports listed below are not able to be claimed from your plan.

	Category	Items
	Internet Devices	Modems, routers, landline phones, mobile phones (including smartphones), mobile phone accessories, tablets, smart watches, and SIM cards.
	Communication Plans	Internet, landline, and mobile phone plans and data.
	Computing and Gaming	Standard computers, computer accessories, gaming consoles, games, and streaming service subscriptions.

Smart Devices and Apps for communication purposes.

If a person has a need for a smart device to use as an essential communication tool, they may be able to apply for this to be funded as a **replacement support**.

If the device is funded, it must replace another support in your plan, help you the same amount and cost the same or less as the other support.

Here's what you need to know:

You will need to submit an application form for a smart device.

A replacement support must be approved by the NDIA and you will need to provide your Plan Manager with the replacement support approval letter.

If the decision is not approved, you are not able to request this to be reviewed. **You can learn more about process for claiming replacements supports on the NDIS website**

The following information and steps are required to claim a replacement support for a smart device.

Aspect	Details	Checklist
Funding Type	Support to buy smart devices	<input type="checkbox"/> Confirm funding type
Cost Limitations	Must be under \$1,500 for low-cost assistive technology (AT) for core funding; otherwise, it's mid-cost AT (05 Capital funding)	<input type="checkbox"/> Check cost limits
Replacement Support Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smartwatches - Tablets - Smartphones - Apps for communication 	<input type="checkbox"/> List needed items
Specific Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must relate to the participant's disability - Should help with independence and reduce need for support workers <p>For example: <i>A person who can only use a tablet to communicate</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Check circumstances
Application Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Needs approval from NDIA in writing - Must meet certain rules to get funding - Additional reports are not required and you can use existing evidence to apply. - You can only apply for this once per plan. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Get ready for the application
Claiming Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Once an outcome letter is provided, please pass this on to your plan manager. - Or if an item is listed in a plan or an AAT tribunal outcome letter is received, these supports can be claimed. - A manual payment claim process must occur so the NDIA can ensure the amount is correct. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Check for plan or tribunal letter