

GETTING THE NDIS BACK ON TRACK

LIFESTYLE RELATED: TECHNOLOGY AND RECREATION

Lifestyle-related technology and recreational activities are essential for personal well-being and enjoyment. While the NDIS supports various needs, specific guidelines determine what can be claimed. Changes to the NDIS will take effect on 3 October 2024.

Under the updated guidelines, some technology and recreational costs may be covered if they directly assist with your disability. However, other expenses are considered part of everyday life and are not eligible for NDIS funding.

In this discussion, we will clarify which supports can be claimed through your NDIS funding and which cannot, and we will provide information on alternative resources that may offer assistance.

Supports that are NDIS

The NDIS funds a variety of supports that enhance a person's lifestyle and promote participation in recreational activities. This can include technology and tools designed to improve daily living, as well as resources that encourage social engagement and leisure.



Some examples include assistive devices for communication, adaptive sports equipment, or technology that supports hobbies and interests.

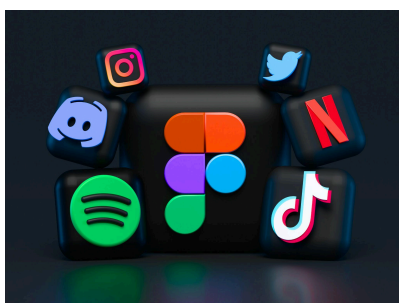


What will and will not be funded depends on your individual disability and needs, so it is essential to discuss your goals and preferences with your NDIS planner.

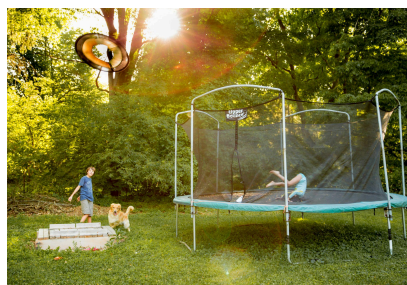
The supports listed below may be able to be claimed from your plan.

Communication Aids	Tools that help you communicate in different ways or access written and spoken information using electronic devices.
Sports and Recreation Gear	Specialised or modified equipment for sports and fun activities, helping you take part in both competitive and leisure pursuits.
Recreational Assistive Technology	services to assess and prescribe, deliver, adjust and train a participant in successful use of an assistive product
	maintenance, spare parts and consumable items specific to an assistive product for recreational use
Communication and Information Assistive Technology	Products that help a participant to receive, send, produce and/or process information in different forms
	Products that facilitate a participant communicating by language, signs and symbols, receiving and producing messages, having conversations and using communication devices and techniques
	Services to assess and prescribe, deliver, adjust and train a participant in the successful use of an assistive product
	Maintenance, spare parts and consumable items specific to an assistive product.

Supports that are not NDIS



There are many everyday expenses related to communication, entertainment, and recreation that the NDIS does not cover.



These costs are not specifically tied to your disability and are incurred by everyone.

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

Internet Devices and Internet and Communication Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet devices (such as modems and routers), landline phones, mobile phones (including smart phones), mobile phone accessories, tablets, and sim cards. Internet, landline and mobile phone plans and data
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Gaming and Entertainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenses for gaming PCs, consoles, video games, headphones and subscriptions to streaming services.
Recreational Items/Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard (non-modified and not adaptive) recreational equipment and tools, including toys, balls and racquets Standard indoor or outdoor play equipment
Recreational Sports/Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs associated with recreational sports and activities - this includes membership costs, venue hire fees, uniforms and footwear
Professional Sports/Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs associated with elite or professional sports and activities, including equipment or modifications to equipment and related travel costs
Music and Social Media Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs for musical instruments, music production equipment, and expenses related to social media content creation.
Event Tickets and Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tickets to theme parks, tourism and entertainment operators. Tickets to music, theatre, cinema, sporting events, and conference fees or entrance fees Accommodation to attend or participate in work, study, music, theatre, cinema, sporting events or conferences. This includes any other social, business, private, public formal or informal event
Trampolines and Play Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs for trampolines and general play equipment, both indoors and outdoors.
Club Memberships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General health, fitness, social or recreational activity costs or services Membership and entry to a recreational club and standard gym equipment
Lifestyle Products and Treatments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-prescription medicines, sunscreens, weight loss products, vitamins, sport or athletic supplements, and homeopathic medicines.

Supports that may be funded by the NDIS

Some supports might be covered by NDIS funding, but this depends on your specific plan and what your planner has included. It's a good idea to talk to the NDIS about these services.

To be eligible for funding, these supports need to be in your plan or you need permission from an NDIS representative.



The supports listed below are likely able to be claimed from NDIS funding.

Services delivered in a gym or recreational club	Related to the participant's disability support needs (excluding the cost of membership, entry, or basic equipment).
Group support in the community and a centre	Typically this involves the cost of the support provided rather than an activity cost.

Replacement Supports

In specific situations, some participants may be able to apply for an item to be funded in their plan where there are specific needs for an item. This process requires the NDIS to approve the replacement item or support before it can be purchased.

There are requirements for this support to be able to be requested and approved.

Smart watches, tablets, smart phones, apps for accessibility/communication purposes	A person has complex communication needs and uses a tablet as an alternative communication device, which is their only way to communicate and so cannot be shared.
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Other services you can go to for help



While there are some things that the NDIS is not able to help with, there are other services and agencies that can provide advice or help you with your housing needs.

Each local government and council have their own resources and services. You can find information on their websites, or have a look at the examples for the Sunshine Coast below.

Local Government	https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/fairplay
Sunshine Coast Council - Events and Programs	https://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/living-and-community/community-support/multicultural-welcome-hub/connections-in-your-community/events-activities-and-programs
Sunshine Coast Council - Healthy Sunshine Coast Initiative	https://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/living-and-community/community-support/healthy-and-active/healthy-sunshine-coast
Queensland Government - Recreation	https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/out-and-about/sport-recreation/recreation
Sunshine Coast Council - Access and Inclusion	https://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/living-and-community/community-support/access-inclusion-and-disability
Companion cards for carers	https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/out-and-about/subsidies-concessions-passes/companion-card
Queensland Charity	https://www.pccy.org.au/about-us/