

GETTING THE NDIS BACK ON TRACK

PETS AND ANIMALS

Pets can make a huge difference in our lives, especially for individuals with disabilities. They offer companionship, emotional support, and can even encourage physical activity. The NDIS recognises the positive impact that animals can have but has specific guidelines on what costs can be covered.

Starting from 3 October 2024, certain expenses related to service animals may be eligible for funding if they are specifically trained to assist with your disability. However, everyday pet care costs, like food, grooming, and regular vet visits, are generally considered personal expenses and aren't covered by the NDIS unless assistance animals are specifically identified in the participant's plan.

In this discussion, we'll go over which supports related to service animals you can claim through your NDIS funding, as well as what's not eligible. We'll also share some alternative resources to help with pet care if you need it.

Supports that are NDIS

An assistance animal is specially trained by a certified provider to help a participant with specific tasks related to their disability.

These tasks might include guiding someone through busy places or alerting them to important sounds.

The NDIS understands how valuable these animals can be and provides funding for various related costs. This includes ongoing expenses like vet visits and special diets to keep the animal healthy and happy. By covering these costs, the NDIS helps participants make the most of their assistance animals, allowing them to enjoy greater independence and confidence in their daily lives.

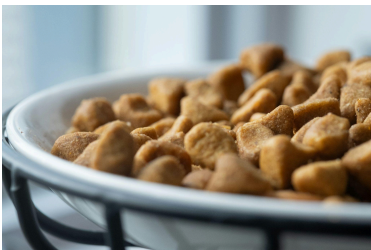


The supports listed below may be able to be claimed from your plan.

Service Animals	Trained animals that help individuals with disabilities by performing specific tasks, like guiding or alerting. Funding can cover training and ongoing care costs, such as vet fees and special diets.
Dietary Needs	Support for specialised dietary requirements for NDIS approved assistance animals, ensuring they receive proper nutrition.

Grooming	Funding for grooming services to maintain the health and hygiene of the NDIS approved assistance animal.
Veterinary Services	Covers veterinary care, including routine check-ups, flea and worm treatments, medication, and vaccinations for NDIS approved assistance animals.
Yearly Reviews to Maintain Accreditation	Support for the annual review process to ensure the assistance animal maintains its training and accreditation.

Supports that are not NDIS



The NDIS knows how much service animals and pets can boost well-being for people with disabilities.

However, there are quite a few areas of pet care and animal support that aren't covered by the scheme.



Knowing what's not included can help you set realistic expectations and find other ways to get support.



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

Non-approved Animals	Expenses related to pets that aren't recognised as approved assistance animals under the NDIS.
Pet Food	Costs for feeding pets that aren't approved NDIS assistance animals.
Veterinarian Costs	General vet expenses for pets that aren't approved NDIS assistance animals.
Pet Grooming	Costs for grooming services for pets that aren't approved NDIS assistance animals.
Pet Cremation/Funeral	Taxidermy and pet cremations, burials or funerals. For any pet or animal.
Pet Insurance	Costs for pet insurance for any pet or animal

Other services you can go to for help



While the NDIS offers valuable support, there are plenty of other services and resources available that can help participants with various needs.

Here are some places to explore.

Community Health Services:	https://www.qld.gov.au/health/services/community-health/services
Lifeline Queensland	https://www.lifeline.org.au/
Animal Welfare Organizations	https://www.rspcaqld.org.au/
Counselling Services	https://www.mindbodyclinic.com.au/