

What is Reasonable and Necessary?

One thing you'll hear a lot on your NDIS journey is the term 'reasonable and necessary'. This is the key standard the NDIS uses to **evaluate every funding request you make as part of your plan**. The term 'reasonable and necessary' actually comes out of the NDIS legislation itself and sets out criteria which must all be met for a support to be funded.

It should be noted that **what is reasonable and necessary for some people may not be reasonable and necessary for others** – it really depends a lot on your personal situation! So before using your NDIS funding to purchase any item or service (no matter how your funds are managed), you need to be sure that you can say 'yes' to all six of the following questions:



Do you need this because of your disability?

In other words, would you have to purchase it regardless of whether you had a disability? If so, it doesn't meet this criteria. This includes things that are a daily living expense, like food, mobile phone, internet bill, etc.



Does it help me achieve my goals or participate more in the community?

The supports you purchase should be helping you to achieve the goals you identified in your NDIS plan, and/or help you become more independent or more involved in your community.



Is it value for money?

You need to make sure that the product or service you want to purchase is the most cost-effective solution to help you achieve your goals.



Is the support likely to be beneficial?

You should have some evidence that the support you want to purchase is likely to work for you.



Is it something your informal supports can't do?

Your informal supports are people like family members and friends. If it's realistic for someone else to provide this support (e.g. a parent providing this support for a child), NDIS may not fund it.



Is NDIS the best system to pay for this?

Before choosing to plan-manage, you should consider whether you need help to manage your payments - if so, plan-management is a good idea.



On top of answering 'yes' to all six questions, having evidence before you purchase a support will also help you in the long run, if NDIS ask you to justify what you've paid for using NDIS funds.

If you need some advice about whether something might be considered reasonable and necessary, don't hesitate to ask us! But at the end of the day, you know best what supports will help you live a fulfilling life.



Get in touch with us!

1800 024 000

www.plancare.com.au

hello@plancare.com.au



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