

Transitioning to a new paradigm... the NDIS

Confidential

The Changing Roles.

Up until now, it's been the professionals that have made all the decisions on what is the right equipment for a client who needs help. The NDIS is changing all that.

Now it's you – the end user – who has been empowered to make the decisions about your life and what you need to increase your participation in the community.

The role of the professional is to be a facilitator of information so you can make informed decisions about your life. The professional is no longer the gate keeper, but more a source of advice and information.

The Plan.

Completing "The Plan" successfully is the key to a quick and successful application for funding. The Plan has a logical flow to it, and if each section is filled in with a consistent narrative, there is a much better chance that the application will go smoothly.

How should the narrative flow?

The key elements are your life story ("About me") and your Goals (Parts 1 and 2). These should be structured so that the end result – Part 3 – makes sense from what you have described in Parts 1 and 2.

Your Goals must be consistent with how you have described yourself in Part 1, and must foreshadow what equipment and help you need to fulfill those goals.

So, if you are wanting a particular piece of equipment to be funded, then what you say in Parts 1 and 2 should point towards this outcome.

Example:

If a scooter or powerchair are on your shopping list, then you have to make it clear in Part 2 ("My Goals") that independence and mobility are part of your goals.

Eg. "One of my goals is to be able to be independent, to do my own shopping, to get out and visit friends and generally become part of the community. I will need a scooter to be able to do this." etc.

Naturally, your goals must be realistic and fit with who you are and how you have described yourself in Part 1.

What Goals are acceptable*?

The key is for you to be able to say what you really want (within reason), and which fits with who you are. What is important is *empowerment, participation, engagement* and *independence*^:

- *Empowered* to run your own life and make your own decisions
- *Participating* in the wider community
- *Engaging* in economic activity that helps foster financial independence
- Functioning as an *independent* member of the society, as far as possible.

In other words – your goals should be to just getting on with life as best you are able, and using clear practical examples to illustrate your strategies.

So if you need to take a holiday once in a while, then that should be a goal. If you need employment, then that should be a goal. If you need a social life that enables you to engage in the community and maintain your mental health, then make it a goal. If you need exercise, make it a goal. Other goals: shopping, hobbies, visiting, getting to the church or the club, etc.

Keep in mind the kinds of equipment and help you will need to meet those goals and then put them into your Part 3 list, with realistic costings.

* Use of the words in italics is advisable. They are key words for the assessors.

What is funded – Part 3?

Your funding will be consistent with your goals. Make sure you are realistic about your equipment funding. Key words: *Reasonable* and *Necessary*.

Example:

If you need a scooter or a powerchair, don't ask for \$500 - it's not enough. You will need to get some idea of prices BEFORE you finalise your application, otherwise it will be back to square one and there will be big delays. Speak to a supplier *first*, to get an idea of prices. Don't rely solely on health professionals for financial advice – they may have out of date information.

Note: You will *not* need large amounts of money for professional assessment if you are able to make up your own mind. If you apply for too much money for professional assessment it will limit your other funding options. A professional does not need \$4000 to assess a \$4000 piece of equipment. Don't limit your options by spending too much on professional assessment if you don't need it.

Acceptable mobility equipment:

- Mobility scooters of most types, depending on your requirements and goals.
- Powerchairs of most types, including off-the-shelf models or customised chairs of varying complexity
- Used equipment
- Portable, transportable scooters and powerchairs
- Leasing equipment, which allows more money to meet other needs.

Note: Funding for holiday equipment is acceptable providing it fits with your goals. For example, the Luggie scooter or powerchair that enables travel and portability.

For more information, ideas and advice, contact our staff by phoning 1300 622 633 and ask to speak to the store manager.

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