

# NDIS

You can use your NDIS funding to pay for equipment services.



## National Disability Insurance Scheme

The NDIS is a new way of delivering disability support to give more choice and control to people accessing services.

TAD provides the Freedom Wheels service and is an NDIS-registered service provider. TAD has been delivering equipment services under the NDIS since 2013 in the Hunter area of NSW, and since 2015 in the Hawkesbury, Nepean and Blue Mountains.

The NDIS is continuing to roll out throughout Sydney and NSW. Go to <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/NSW>, to find out when the NDIS will be available in your area.

## Equipment in your NDIS plan

To purchase equipment through the NDIS, you will need to make sure a budget for this equipment is included in your NDIS plan.

Your plan will be broken up into several broad areas, you need to make sure you have a budget for "capital supports" for the NDIS to fund equipment.

When you speak to your NDIS Planner, you need to tell them what equipment you need, as well as how the equipment will help you to participate in your community.

**Call us on 1300 663 243 to discuss your options.**

### Tips for accessing equipment through the NDIS:

1. Make a list of all your current equipment and assistive technology.
2. Make a list of the equipment you need but don't have.
3. Write down how much it costs to maintain and service this equipment.
4. Write down why your equipment is important and what your equipment will help you to achieve.
5. Talk to your NDIS Planner about your equipment needs and costs, to ensure that you have a budget in your plan for "capital supports".
6. Talk to your current therapist and ask them to write a letter to support your request for funding for equipment.
7. TAD will provide you with a quote and supporting letter to send to the NDIS when requesting funding for equipment.

## Freedom Wheels and the NDIS Operational Guidelines on Recreation Supports

The NDIS Operational Guideline that covers recreation supports can be found here: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/Operational-Guideline/including-10.html>

A Freedom Wheels bike will be considered by the NDIS as Assistive Equipment for Recreation. The NDIS has set out a number of guidelines that are important to consider when accessing funding for recreational equipment:

*In relation to recreational support, it is important that the support relates to one or more participatory goals. For example, developing greater social networks or greater inclusion in the community.*

### What does this mean?

If your goal is for your child to “ride a bike”, the NDIS may not fund this because it does not relate to increased participation in the community or

in social activities. Your goals need to include the activities your child will be able to access if they have a bike, for instance, riding with friends and family in the park, or participating in school or community sports events.

An example of a goal might be: *The goal for my child is to develop greater social networks and have greater inclusion in the community, through participating in activities such as cycling with friends and family. To achieve this goal my child needs a Freedom Wheels bike.*

If a participant requires modifications to the usual equipment required to participate in their chosen recreational activity, the NDIS may fund the reasonable and necessary costs associated with equipment (over and above the usual cost for the equipment) or the cost of modifying the equipment.

This means the NDIS may ask parents to make a contribution to the cost of a Freedom Wheels bike.

### Frequently Used Terms:

**Assistive Technology:** any device that allows you to do something you would find difficult or would not be able to do on your own without help. This could be a special chair, a computer program, a Freedom Wheels bike, a wheelchair; basically, any piece of equipment that assist you to achieve your goals.

**Capital Supports:** a section of your NDIS budget that is set aside for buying equipment, or making modifications to a home or workplace.

**Assistive Equipment for Recreation:** this includes equipment to assist you to participate in sports and recreational activities.

**NDIS Participant:** the person whose plan you are developing with the NDIS.

**NDIS Provider:** a service or business who can provide support, services or equipment to help a participant achieve their goals.

**LAC:** Local Area Coordinator, a person who can help you find supports and services to help a participant achieve their goals.

**Planner:** an NDIS employee who will help you to set your goals in your NDIS plan.