



Mainstream interface: Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training

Supports the NDIS will fund in relation to Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training

About the NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (the Scheme) is a new way of providing community linking and individualised support for people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (the Agency) has been established to implement the Scheme.

The Agency will build relationships with mainstream service providers and the local community. This will improve their understanding about how they can assist people with disability.

What supports related to Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training will the Scheme fund?

Some participants in the Scheme may be studying through a higher education or vocational education and training (VET) provider. This could include undertaking a university degree, apprenticeship or training course.

Some participants will require additional support as a result of their disability in order to undertake this education.

Supports funded by the Scheme

The Scheme will fund supports that enable participants to engage in higher education or VET courses which are related to the participant's disability.

This includes:

- personal care on campus related to the participant's disability such as assistance with eating or self-care
- assistance with transport to and from campus required because of the participant's disability
- aids and equipment that is transportable such as a wheelchair, personal communication device or a hearing aid
- specialised or intensive support to transition into higher education and VET, or transition once the participant finishes studying.

Supports funded by the higher education and VET system

The education system has responsibility for assisting students with their educational attainment, including through teaching and educational resources.

This includes:

- employing teachers, learning assistants, facilitating access to educational resources
- learning-specific aids and equipment such as computers and text books
- making reasonable adjustments to the educational curriculum to enable access by people with disability
- reasonable adjustments to campus buildings, such as ramps, and fixed or

non-transportable equipment such as hoists

- transporting students with disability on the same basis as other students for educational activities such as excursions or field trips.

Individuals and families sometimes need to contribute to funding education-related supports, such as course fees and purchasing education materials. The Scheme will not cover these costs.

Will the Scheme fund the cost of undertaking a TAFE course?

The cost of educational attainment is generally the responsibility of the education system, or individuals and families. This includes education and training that is for the purpose of developing industry skills (for example a Certificate 2 in Hospitality). The Scheme will not fund any course fees associated with these courses.

The Scheme will fund supports that enable participants to develop independent living skills. Where the skills development course is delivered by a higher education or TAFE provider, this can be funded by the Scheme. Examples of this training include Certificate 1 in Life Skills or a Certificate 1 in Work Preparation.

If a participant is registered with an employment program (for example Disability Employment Services) this training may be provided or funded as part of their Employment Plan. This mainstream support should be sought prior to course being funded by the Scheme.

What happens if the education provider doesn't fund the supports I need?

If the education system is responsible for a support, the Scheme cannot fund that support, even if the education system does not provide it.

However, the Scheme may still be able to provide assistance to participants, for example, a Local Area Coordinator can assist the participant to make contact and discuss their needs with education providers.

What happens next?

Participants and their families will discuss their educational goals with the Agency as part of their planning conversation.

The participant's plan will include the supports the Scheme will fund for the participant and those supports which are the responsibility of the education system.

More information

- Visit ndis.gov.au
- Email enquiries@ndis.gov.au
- Call 1800 800 110* Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm EST.

For people with hearing or speech loss:

- TTY: 1800 555 677
- Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727
- For people who need help with English TIS: 131 450

*1800 calls are free from fixed lines; however calls from mobiles may be charged.