

# Reasonable and Necessary Supports



**‘Reasonable and Necessary Supports’ are a fundamental component of the NDIA’s assessment criteria to determine whether a participant’s requests are likely to be funded under the Scheme.**

A participant’s reasonable and necessary supports take into account any informal supports already available to the individual (informal arrangements that are part of family life, natural connections with friends and community groups) as well as other formal supports, such as health and education.

Reasonable and necessary supports are funded by the NDIS in a range of areas, which may include education, employment, social participation, independence, living arrangements and health and wellbeing.

These supports assist participants to:

- Pursue their goals and aspirations
- Increase their independence
- Increase social and economic participation
- Develop their capacity to actively take part in the community.

## How does the NDIA know what is reasonable and necessary?

The NDIA makes decisions based on the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (NDIS Act) and the operational guidelines. The Planner refers to the operational guideline that relates to each specific support requested, and makes an assessment based on it meeting the following criteria:

- It must be related to the participant’s disability
- Does not include day-to-day living costs that are not related to a participant’s disability support needs
- Represent value for money
- Be likely to be effective and beneficial to the participant
- Take into account informal supports given to participants by families, carers, networks, and the community.

One of the biggest considerations therefore, a participant must think about is their level of informal supports they have in their life, and if these are sustainable for the foreseeable future.

If not, then the participant must consider requesting these supports through other options such as additional hours for Support Workers to take on these gaps in the future. These gaps should then form part of their requests to the NDIA/LAC as part of their planning meeting.

**If you would like more information, please call Linda Macmillan, PQSA Projects Coordinator on (08) 8355 3500 or email [lindam@pqsa.asn.au](mailto:lindam@pqsa.asn.au)**

