NDIS glossary

29 terms in plain English. Key definitions checked 3 October 2026. This guide is a starting point; your plan and current rules determine what can be funded.

Capacity building supports
Funding that helps a participant build skills and independence over time, such as therapy, skills training and support coordination.

Choice and control
The participant's right to choose how disability supports are delivered and who provides them, within their plan and NDIS rules.

Core supports
Funding for everyday activities: help with daily living, consumables, transport and social and community participation.

Capital supports
Funding for assistive technology, home modifications and specialist disability accommodation.

Early childhood approach
Support for children younger than 9 with developmental concerns or disability and their families. Early connections can help without NDIS eligibility. Access based on developmental delay requires a child to be younger than 6 and meet the NDIS criteria.

Functional capacity assessment (FCA)
An assessment, usually by an occupational therapist, that describes how disability affects daily life and what supports are needed.

Local area coordinator (LAC)
A partner organisation worker who helps participants understand the NDIS, create and use their plan, and connect with the community.

NDIA
The National Disability Insurance Agency, the government agency that runs the NDIS.

NDIS Commission
The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, the independent body that registers providers and handles complaints and quality concerns.

NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits
NDIA documents set maximum prices and claiming conditions for agency-managed and plan-managed supports. Limits vary by item and delivery location. Self-managed participants can negotiate above or below the limits; check current rules and your plan.

NDIA-managed
A plan management option where the NDIA pays registered providers directly.

Plan-managed
A registered plan manager pays providers and helps manage the funded budget. Participants can usually choose registered or unregistered providers, but some supports require registered providers regardless of how funding is managed.

Self-managed
The participant, nominee or child representative manages payments, budgets and records. Prices can be negotiated above or below NDIS price limits, but spending must still follow the plan and NDIS rules.

Plan reassessment
The NDIA reviews support needs and may create a new plan. A plan may instead be varied or continued. Confirm your current plan dates, funding periods and available funds with the NDIA.

Behaviour support plan (BSP)
A plan written by a behaviour support practitioner, considered suitable by the NDIS Commission, that describes strategies to improve quality of life, reduce behaviours of concern and document any regulated restrictive practices.

Psychosocial recovery coach
A coach with mental health training or lived experience who helps participants with psychosocial disability plan and manage their recovery and NDIS supports.

Reasonable and necessary
The test the NDIA uses to decide which supports it will fund, based on the participant's disability, goals and value for money.

Registered provider
A provider registered with the NDIS Commission, meeting the NDIS Practice Standards and Code of Conduct.

Restrictive practice
A practice that restricts a person's rights or freedom of movement. Ongoing regulated restrictive practices require a behaviour support plan, applicable state or territory authorisation, and Commission reporting. Unauthorised use is a reportable incident.

Schedule of supports
The part of a service agreement listing each support, its item number, price, frequency and total cost.

Service agreement
A written agreement between participant and provider covering what supports are delivered, how and at what cost.

Short-term accommodation (STA)
Disability-related support that gives a participant time apart from usual informal care arrangements and gives carers a break. It can be provided at home or in another setting. Eligibility and funded costs depend on the plan and current NDIS rules.

Specialist disability accommodation (SDA)
Housing designed for people with extreme functional impairment or very high support needs.

Specialist support coordination
Higher-level coordination for participants with complex situations, such as frequent crisis or multiple systems involved.

Supported independent living (SIL)
Help with daily tasks in a shared or individual home so a participant can live as independently as possible.

Support coordination
A capacity building support that helps participants understand and use their plan and connect with providers.

Support item number
The code identifying each NDIS support in the pricing schedule, used when claiming.

Therapy assistant
A worker who delivers parts of a therapy program under a therapist's supervision.

Very remote / remote loading
Higher price limits that apply in remote and very remote areas, based on the Modified Monash Model.

Official guidance

Early childhood approach

https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying/children/guide-early-childhood-approach

Choosing providers

https://ndis.gov.au/participants/working-providers/finding-providers/how-find-and-choose-provider

Self-managed funding

https://ndis.gov.au/participants/using-your-funding/self-managed-funding/what-self-managed-funding

Your next plan

https://ndis.gov.au/participants/changing-your-plan/your-next-plan/guide-your-next-plan

Short-term accommodation

https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/using-your-funding/other-types-support/what-short-term-accommodation

Restrictive practice requirements

https://www.ndiscommission.gov.au/rules-and-standards/behaviour-support-and-restrictive-practices/rules-implementing-providers