



## **What are the guidelines for purchasing Assistive Technology?**

### **What is assistive technology (AT)?**

Assistive technology is any device or system that allows you to do something that you would not be able to do without.

### **What can I spend?**

- Participants can spend up to \$1500 on low cost AT items from their existing budgets, however participants should not spend more than **\$750 on electronic devices** needed to maintain existing services. In the case of **computer tablets or iPads for telehealth and care or participating in online video** classes, advice from AT specialists is that most NDIS participants will not need more than a standard tablet, **which costs no more than \$600.**
- Participants can use their funding flexibly to purchase low cost AT using funding in **their core - consumables budget or Improved daily living skills** for low cost AT for smart devices such as iPads

### **What is required by the NDIS before purchasing?**

- Written advice will be required to support this purchase.
- You must make sure the **written advice is provided to the NDIA** – you can upload it to your participant record or ask your provider or plan manager to email it to the NDIA at [enquiries@ndis.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@ndis.gov.au) with a subject like **'Low cost AT flexibility evidence'**. You and your provider should also keep a copy in case the Agency requests it later.

**The written advice (which can include an email) should include:**

1. the participant's name and NDIS number
2. confirmation that delivery of current supports in the participant's plan have been significantly hindered due to physical distancing restrictions (or other consequences of coronavirus (COVID-19)) and that alternate solutions to maintain delivery/outcome have been considered, but do not fully address the limitations;
3. how the device is necessary to maintain supports and services while maintaining physical distancing requirements
4. the specific technologies and associated accessories required, and that these represent the lowest specification capable of delivering the benefit; and
5. that the participant can use the device/s to access the support.

Before the participant (or nominee) or provider makes a claim for the selected item, the participant should be sure that:

- the participant does not already have the item, another suitable item or access to the item, and a similar or suitable item has not been funded by another service system (such as education), and the item or circumstances are not specifically excluded under this policy.

This is a time limited policy which will be in place until **September 2020** and will be reviewed at the end of June 2020.

For further information on claiming your assistive technology please contact one of our support team [enquiries@planmanageassist.com.au](mailto:enquiries@planmanageassist.com.au)