

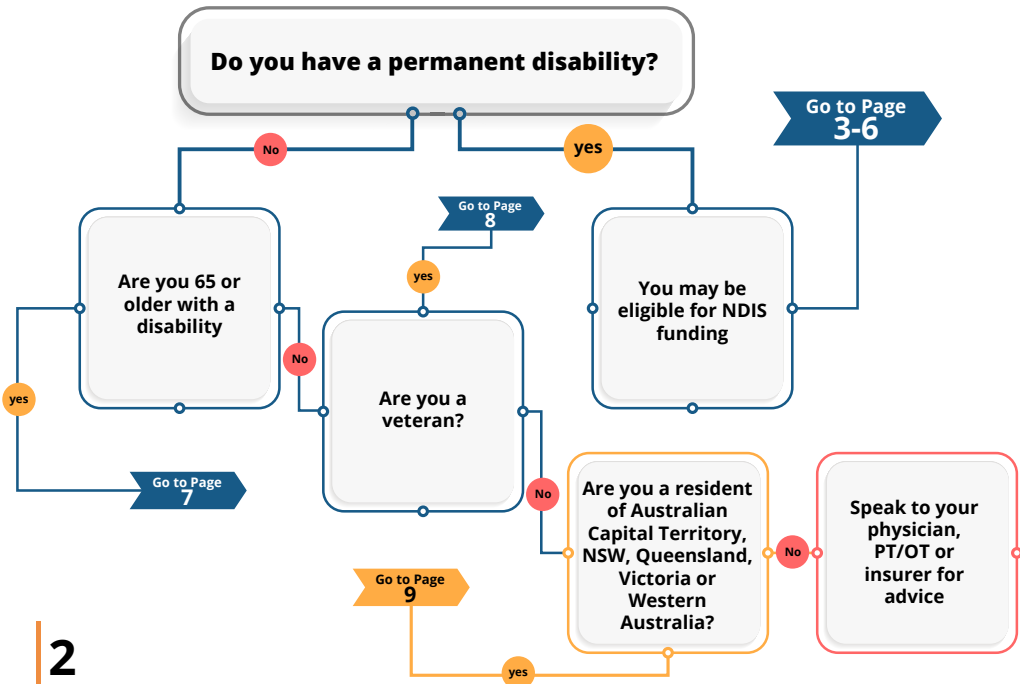


Showerbuddy

How to get funding in Australia

Guide to NDIS and other funding for
Australians

Funding: A Quick guide



NDIS Funding: Eligibility

NDIS, the National Disability Insurance Scheme, can assist with funding and supplying you with a Showerbuddy shower chair or transfer chair to access your toilet and shower, because Showerbuddy is an Assistive Technology device.

To be eligible for NDIS funding, you will need to be:

- 1 Aged from 7 upwards
- 2 Living in Australia, either as an Australian citizen, Permanent Visa folder, or a Protected Special Category Visa holder

How it works:

NDIS is designed to help people with a permanent and significant disability to access equipment and services that they otherwise may not be able to access. The NDIS funds Showerbuddy because it is a necessary support, which are assessed according to the following criteria:

- ✓ The Showerbuddy chair must be related to a participant's disability
- ✓ Showerbuddy should represent value for money
- ✓ Showerbuddy must be effective and work for the participant

NDIS Funding: Why showerbuddy is covered

The Showerbuddy Chair should help participants to: "pursue their goals, objectives and aspirations"

- ✓ Your goal could be described as being able to access your toilet and shower to allow you to remain in good health and hygiene, with less reliance on health services through poor hygiene and health
- ✓ Your objective is to maintain your ability to live in the community, in your own home, without the need for bathroom modifications and with assistance from family or caregiver, using a Showerbuddy chair.
- ✓ Your aspiration could be to become more included in home and community life by using a Showerbuddy to facilitate your hygiene needs more efficiently and safely.

"increase their independence"

- ✓ Although requiring a caregiver or family member to assist you to use Showerbuddy to access your toilet and shower, you do gain independence once transferred where you are able to toilet and shower independently with safety, dignity and comfort.
- ✓ This freedom alone assists you to feel more independent in daily living tasks and integration within the community.

NDIS funding: Why showerbuddy is covered

The Showerbuddy Chair should help participants to: "increase community and workplace participation"

- ✓ Using a Showerbuddy chair gives you a safer, more efficient and quicker bathroom use, allowing more time for daily community or workplace tasks that you are involved with.

"develop their capacity to actively take part in the community"

- ✓ By using a Showerbuddy chair you are able to safely and confidently discharge your daily hygiene needs in a timely manner, freeing time for daily community integration.

What NDIS will not cover :

- Day-to-day living costs not related to your disability support needs, such as groceries
- Support given to you by other government services, your family, carers, networks and the community.

NDIS Funding: Process

To be eligible for NDIS support, individuals need to fill out an **Access Request form** available on the NDIS website, assisted by their primary care provider or OT, PT who will provide evidence of a permanent and significant disability.

In general, the process of getting funding from NDIS will look like:

- ✓ Determining your needs and criteria
- ✓ Making an application to NDIS (Assessment Request form), with help from your primary healthcare provider/OT/PT
- ✓ Providing any supplementary information that NDIS might require to make an assessment during the application review process
- ✓ Getting a decision from NDIS as to whether you are eligible
- ✓ If successful, working with NDIS and your healthcare provider/OT/PT to confirm your funding requirements

Next Steps

***make an appointment
with your
OT/PT/physician***

***Bring information about
how a showerbuddy will
address your needs***

***Bring an Access Request
Form with Section 1
(application
information) filled out***

65+: Non-NDIS funding options

For those who are needing Assistive Technology devices like Showerbuddy but not living with disability, there is age-based funding available from **My Aged Care**. These supports are designed to help people who may find certain tasks more difficult as they get older.

My Aged Care offers two types of packages:

- **Home Care Packages** for Australians who are 65 and over, who have complex healthcare needs, and who wish to remain in their home
- **The Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHS)** provides similar assistance but at an “entry level” meaning that patients do not have complex healthcare needs.

For further information on these please refer to the the links provided.

Veterans: Non-NDIS funding options

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (**DVA**) **Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP)** also provides aids, equipment and modifications to help veterans to live safely and independently. These services can be requested by holders of the Veteran Gold Card and the Veteran White Card

- From November 2021 all Showerbuddy models will be included in the DVA List of eligible equipment.

For more information, a comprehensive description of DVA RAP is available [here](#).



State Funding Non-NDIS options

Various states and territories have different additional provisions that complement the government and national funding schemes. Some territories/states will not appear, as they have transitioned away from state-specific programs towards the NDIS. Active programs are linked.

- ACT - Oxygen and Equipment Services (OAES)
- NSW - Enable Equipment Aids Program (EAP)
- VIC - State Wide Equipment Program (SWEP)
- QLD - Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS)
- WA - Community Aids and Equipment Program (CAEP)