

Plan Extensions

Frequently Asked Questions

Participants

November 2016

Introduction

The National Disability Insurance Agency (the Agency) is committed to ensuring that participants continue to receive funding so they can exercise choice and control over the services they receive and has implemented a number of processes to support this.

Some participants who have scheduled plan reviews due during the months of September, October and November will have their plans extended.

This will enable participants to continue to exercise choice and control over their supports, flexibly utilise their core supports and ensure continuity of supports.

Some participants may have extensions of 130 days, others for 6 or 12 months, depending on their circumstances.

If your original plan was due to end in June, July or August 2016 you received an initial extension of 3 months (90 days) in August 2016. These plans have now been extended a second time for an additional 130 days.

If your original plan was due to end in September, October or November 2016 this plan has been extended for 12 months.

Children who were 0-6 years old at the time of their access decision and have been granted access for early intervention have received a 6 month extension.

Participant –excluding children 0-6 years (extensions up to 12 months)

What has been added to my plan?

Additional funds have been added to the core and capacity building budgets in your plan. No other change to the capital budget, which includes funding for Assistive Technology and Home Modifications has been made.

How has the additional funding been calculated?

As the Agency is extending plans, the increase to the original funding amount matches the new plan duration. For example, if your plan has been extended for 130 days and the budget for core and capacity supports was \$30,000, your plan would have increased by 36 per cent to approximately \$40,800. If your plan has been extended for 12 months you will receive 100 per cent of your core and capacity building supports.

I had a plan review conversation already, and the plan extension does not reflect that conversation?

If you don't think that your newly extended plan reflects the earlier conversation you had with an NDIA Representative, you should contact the Agency who will discuss your concerns..

Is there any flexibility in how I can use the supports in my plan?

Within your core budget, money may be allocated against daily activities, community participation, transport, etc. However – you can use the money across the core support category as you see fit.

It is important to remember that all funds in your core support budget are fully flexible. You can choose how best to spend your core support funding so that you can get the services you need when you need them to achieve your goals.

Will I need to tell my provider about this?

Service providers have been advised that plans have been extended for some of our participants with plans that were due for review in October and November 2016. This has been done to ensure that they will continue to provide you with your agreed supports. Please discuss the plan extension with your service provider if your current service agreements are due to finish before the new plan review date.

What about my service bookings. How will they be extended?

In the myplace portal you will see service bookings for your plan. Service bookings are a new and important part of the myplace portal and enable your provider to be paid for their services. Any service bookings within myplace will have also been automatically extended, where they were created previously.

Please check whether these bookings have been extended to your new plan review date. If your service booking needs updating please contact your provider for assistance or create a new service booking for the extended plan period.

Will I need to do another service agreement?

Service agreements are different to service bookings and the NDIA is usually not involved in these agreements. You and your provider should discuss whether you need to update your service agreement in line with your plan end date.

What if, even with the extra, I don't have enough funding?

The Agency funding for your current plan was based on Reasonable and Necessary decision making. The additional funding should cover the additional months of service provision. If your circumstances have changed which means that your plan may need to be reviewed, please talk to your Local Area Coordinator, support coordinator or alternatively complete a [Change of Circumstances](#) form which is available from www.ndis.gov.au.

Why has my funding for Assistive Technology not been increased?

Funding for Assistive Technology is primarily for equipment and as this is a fixed cost, the plan extension will not affect this.

What if I need repairs or maintenance to my equipment?

At the moment, there is sufficient flexibility for repairs and maintenance to be completed and be drawn from your total budget. If the repair is a significant cost, you may need to request an earlier plan review if your budget is insufficient to meet this need.

What if I want to use the additional budget value just for personal care and not community access or visa versa?

At the moment there is sufficient flexibility in the budgets to allow you to use the total value in the core supports for both community access and personal care. You can discuss with your service provider how you might like to manage these funds.

Has my plan been extended because of issues with the myplace portals?

Your plan has been extended to ensure continuity of services and payment during transition. The Agency has extended all existing participants whose plans were scheduled for review from 1 September 2016 – 30 November 2016. This includes extending the value of the plan.

The transition phase is a unique period for the NDIS. We have a large number of people joining the Scheme during a short period of time.

Early Childhood Early Intervention (0-6 years)

What has been added to my plan?

Additional funds have been added to the core and capacity building budgets in your child's plan. There is no change to the capital budget, which includes funding for Assistive Technology and Home Modifications.

How has the additional funding been calculated?

As the Agency is extending plans for six months, the increase to the original funding amount in your plan is 50 per cent. If your plan budget for core and capacity supports was for example, \$20,000, your plan would have increased to approximately \$30,000.

Will I need to tell my provider about this?

Service providers have been advised that plans have been extended for some of our participants with plans that were due for review in October and November 2016. This has been done to ensure that they will continue to provide you with your agreed supports.

What about my service bookings? How will they be extended?

In the myplace portal you will see service bookings for your plan. Service bookings are a new and important part of the myplace portal and enable your provider to be paid for their services. Please check whether these bookings have been extended to your new plan review date. If your service booking needs updating please contact your provider for assistance or create a new service booking for the extended plan period.

Will I need to do another service agreement?

Service agreements are different to service bookings and the NDIA is usually not involved in these agreements. You and your provider should discuss whether you need to update your service agreement in line with your plan end date.

What if, even with the extra, I don't have enough funding?

The agency funding for your current plan was based on Reasonable and Necessary decision making. The additional 50 per cent of funding should cover the additional six months of service provision. If your child's circumstances have changed which means that their plan may need to be reviewed, please advise your Early Childhood Partner or alternatively complete a [Change of Circumstances](#) form which is available from www.ndis.gov.au.

Why has my child's funding for Assistive Technology not been increased?

Funding for Assistive Technology is primarily for equipment and as this is a fixed cost, the plan extension will not affect this.

What if I need repairs or maintenance to my equipment?

At the moment, there is sufficient flexibility for repairs and maintenance to be completed and be drawn from your total budget. If the repair is a significant cost, you may need to request an earlier plan review if your budget is insufficient to meet this need.

What about if I self-manage some of my supports?

If you self-manage any of your child's supports, you will be able to claim for supports that have been delivered as soon as the new plan is approved.