

Vehicle modifications and driving supports

Quick summary: Many of us rely on a car or other type of vehicle to get around. You might use it for work, to visit friends and family, or enjoy other activities. You may need changes made to a vehicle so you can drive it or travel in it. We call these vehicle modifications. If you need vehicle modifications because of your disability, we might be able to help. The vehicle would need to be yours or one you can use regularly. We may also fund other relevant disability supports linked to driving. For example, we might fund a specialist driving assessment or training you need because of your disability.

What's on this page?

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What do we mean by vehicle modifications and driving supports?

When we talk about vehicle modifications, we mean changes to a vehicle so you can drive or travel in it.

You or a family member need to own the vehicle or have found a vehicle you plan to purchase or lease. If you don't own the vehicle, you'll need to be able to use it regularly and have permission from its owner to modify it.

We'll only consider vehicle modifications you need because of your disability. Without these changes, you wouldn't be able to drive the vehicle or travel as a passenger.

Vehicle modifications and driving supports are one way we help you to:

- get to places you need to go and to the people you want to see
- become as independent as possible
- travel to work or activities
- go somewhere on holiday.

Vehicle modifications and driving supports we might fund because of your disability

- Making changes to a vehicle so you can drive it or be a passenger in it – this includes fitting assistive technology into the vehicle
- Help to remove modifications from an old vehicle and fit them to a new vehicle
- The value of modifications, allowing for age and depreciation, already made to a second-hand vehicle you buy
- A driver trained occupational therapist assessment and a driving instructor for the on-road part of the assessment, if you plan to drive the vehicle
- Specialised driving lessons
- Additional driving lessons where your disability impacts your ability to learn to drive
- Assessment and trial of passenger modifications
- Help with extra insurance costs because your vehicle has been modified
- Help with an engineering certificate or authorisation report you need to register a vehicle with modifications
- Help with your transport needs while your vehicle is being modified
- The costs of maintenance or repair of the modifications
- Inspection for a vehicle condition report for a vehicle older than 5 years and no longer under warranty to confirm it is safe and reliable for daily use, and suitable to modify

Vehicle modifications and driving supports we don't fund

- Funding to cover usual vehicle registration, insurance or running costs, for example fuel, servicing, or repairs to the vehicle
- Driving supervision or driving lessons for you to make up practice hours to get your driver's licence
- Funding to buy or lease a vehicle
- Non-standard equipment for modifications, for example installation of extra seats for transporting friends, because we can only fund the minimum needed to meet your disability-related needs
- Costs to upgrade a commercial vehicle to a passenger grade vehicle such as installation of windows, air conditioning and roof insulation or lining
- Changes to public vehicles, such as buses or taxis
- High cost modifications if it's been less than 8 years since the last modifications were made, unless there are exceptional circumstances

What vehicle modifications and driving supports do we fund?

All NDIS funded supports must meet our [NDIS funding criteria](#).¹ Each individual reasonable and necessary support in your plan must meet the NDIS funding criteria. Your whole plan as a package of supports must also meet the NDIS funding criteria.

Below are some questions to ask yourself. They can help you think about whether we'll consider funding what you want.

Are the vehicle modifications and driving supports:

- [related to your disability?](#)
- [going to help you pursue your goals?](#)
- [going to help you take part in social and work life?](#)
- [effective and beneficial for you?](#)
- [value for money?](#)
- [better funded or provided by another service or organisation?](#)
- [legal and safe?](#)

Do you need the vehicle modifications and driving supports because of your disability?

You may need extra support to use a car or other type of vehicle because of your disability. We can only fund vehicle modifications and driving supports that relate to your disability.² We can't fund vehicle modifications and driving supports if they're not related to your disability.

This means you have to pay for things like the vehicle itself, registration, insurance, fuel, vehicle repairs and maintenance. These are costs that everyone who has a vehicle needs to pay, whether or not they have a disability.³

But if you need changes made to your vehicle because of your disability, we might be able to help. These changes would help you use the vehicle where you might not otherwise be able to because of the effects of your disability.

We might also help you with any extra insurance or inspection costs you have because you have a vehicle modified so people with disability can use it.⁴

Example

Hayden's main form of mobility is using a wheelchair. Hayden's family are finding it hard to safely move him from his wheelchair into the booster seat of their van and lift his wheelchair into the van. They want to get their van modified for wheelchair access. They also want modifications to include a fold down rear seat. This would mean they have enough seats in their van for their extended family and friends to travel with them.

We may fund modifications so that Hayden can be transported in the family van in his wheelchair. But we can't fund the fold down rear seat because this isn't related to Hayden's disability.

Will the vehicle modifications and driving supports help you pursue your goals?

We'll look at how your disability prevents you from pursuing your goals, and how vehicle modifications and driving supports will help with your disability support needs.

You may have a goal to get involved in sport or social activities, or go to work. We'll look at all the ways you might be able to pursue those goals. Funding vehicle modifications could be one way.

There are some things to remember:

- Setting more and bigger goals doesn't mean we'll fund more and bigger supports.
- Setting a goal about a specific type or amount of support you might want doesn't mean we have to fund that support or in that amount.

Learn more about [setting goals](#).

Example

Chen has a goal to do a course at TAFE. He's enrolled in his course and will need to go to TAFE 5 days a week. He has bought a car to help him travel to and from TAFE. He needs the car because there isn't any suitable public transport.

He will need hand controls fitted to the car. This is because he can't operate the pedals due to his disability. We know that providing Chen with this support will help him pursue his goal. We can fund the hand controls if they meet all the NDIS funding criteria and have been recommended by a driver trained occupational therapist.

Will the vehicle modifications and driving supports help you take part in social and work life?

We know how important transport can be to help you be independent and take part in work, education, sport, social and other everyday activities. Because of this we usually consider whether a request for vehicle modifications and driving supports meets these criteria.

If you have to use your vehicle as part of your job, you might be eligible for some assistance for modifications through the [Employment Assistance Fund](#).

Are the vehicle modifications and driving supports effective and beneficial for you?

We need to know the vehicle modifications will be effective and beneficial for you. This means the modifications will do what you need them to do. They'll help you use the vehicle where you wouldn't have been able to otherwise.

We may fund a suitably qualified assessor to talk to you about your transport needs. They'll explore and try different options with you, for example:

- how you'll get in and out of the vehicle
- how you'll get any mobility equipment in the vehicle
- what help you may need getting mobility equipment out of the vehicle.

For more information about getting a vehicle modification and driving supports assessment, check out [How do you get vehicle modifications and driving supports in your plan](#) and [Funding to explore vehicle modification supports](#).

You'll need a driver trained occupational therapist if the modifications are specific to how you'll drive the vehicle. They'll work with you and assess your needs, including all the things you need to get your driver's licence.

A driver trained occupational therapist has extra qualifications to assess the task of driving, by looking at how you use your vision, body and thinking to drive.

You may have had modifications in the past but your driving ability has now changed. If so, the driver trained occupational therapist will also need to check whether your modifications need to be changed.

We'll look at whether the vehicle modifications you want have worked for other people with needs like yours, or if you need a unique solution.

We'll also ask you about your experience. For example, you might have used a modified vehicle before. If you have, you can tell us how this worked for you. If you haven't had a chance to try out a modified vehicle, that's okay. We might help you do this. It's important to know if the changes are likely to work for you.

Are the vehicle modifications and driving supports value for money?

Your vehicle modifications must be value for money.⁵ This means the modifications must be a good use of money in terms of:

- the benefits you will get from them
- the cost compared to other supports that would achieve the same outcome.

We'll need to know it'll be cost effective to modify your vehicle. We'll also need to know it will be value for money to do so. To work this out, we'll look at:

- whether the vehicle is suitable to be modified
- the age of the vehicle
- whether the vehicle is under warranty
- the cost of the modifications
- how often you'll use the vehicle
- how long the modified vehicle is likely to last
- whether the modifications could be removed and installed in another vehicle if you need to replace your vehicle
- whether the vehicle will need a unique engineering solution
- whether the modifications are the best way to meet your long term transport or driving needs

- whether your transport needs could be met in a less costly way using other supports – for example, we might compare the cost of the modifications to the cost of providing you with funding to use on transport services, such as taxis
- whether your needs will change over time, and the use you'll get out of the proposed modifications
- for children who need vehicle modifications, whether the changes will still work for them as they get older
- if you're the driver, whether the modification helps you to better manage accessing the community by yourself
- if you have a progressive condition, whether the changes will still work for you in the future as your needs change.

You need to get advice from a suitably qualified assessor about any modifications.

Sometimes you'll also need an engineering certificate or authorisation report from a licensed vehicle modifier or certifier. This will need to tell us about:

- the condition of your vehicle
- how suitable your vehicle is to have changes made to it.

How old is your vehicle and is it under warranty?

We'll look at the age, type, and warranty of your vehicle. Vehicles up to 5 years old, or older if it's still under manufacturer's warranty, are generally suitable to have changes made to them. We may ask you to give us a copy of the warranty details to confirm this.

Most vehicles suitable for modifications have manufacturer warranties for at least 5 years and cover unlimited kilometres. But you should check what warranty applies to your vehicle. It might be based on kilometres instead or be less than 5 years, particularly if you buy it second hand and it hasn't been properly maintained.

For vehicles older than this and no longer under warranty, you'll need to organise a vehicle condition report.

The vehicle condition report will need to tell us:

- your vehicle is legal and safe to be on the road
- any parts of the vehicle with signs of wear and tear which are likely to need replacing in the medium to short term.
- what the next major service will likely include and the estimated cost if all recommended parts are replaced.

You can get a vehicle condition report from your state or territory motoring organisation. We'll fund the cost of this in the [core – consumables](#) section of your plan. To arrange a vehicle condition report, contact your state or territory motoring organisation:

- New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory - [NRMA](#)
- Victoria - [RACV](#)
- Queensland - [RACQ](#)
- South Australia - [RAA](#)
- Western Australia - [RAC](#)
- Tasmania - [RACT](#)
- Northern Territory - [AANT](#)

Generally, vehicles older than 10 years aren't likely to be value for money for any significant modification.

You may be able to remove the modifications from an older vehicle and use them in another vehicle. For example, a swing out seat, hand control or wheelchair hoist can often be moved. You may want to have a modification moved to another vehicle. If it's been less than 5 years since we funded the modification you would have to pay for it to be re-installed.

Modifications usually last 8-10 years. We keep this in mind when we think about:

- the overall condition of your vehicle
- whether the modifications would be value for money.

We'll usually reconsider replacement vehicle modifications every 8 years. We might consider them earlier if there's been major changes to your needs.

Example

Jasmin has been using a modified van for over 15 years, and the van recently reached the end of its working life. She's bought a new van and wants us to fund changes to the van so she can travel as a front row passenger.

Jasmin gives us a quote which says the front passenger wheelchair conversion will cost around \$50,000. Jasmin's request meets all our NDIS funding criteria, except it's not value for money. It would only cost around \$30,000 to do a conversion for her to sit in the second row location instead.

We recognise Jasmin may prefer to travel in the front row. But it's not necessary for her to be safe or pursue her goals. We can't fund the front row conversion. We recognise the second row conversion meets all our NDIS funding criteria and include this funding in Jasmin's plan.

Jasmin can still use the funding to get the front row conversion done if she wants to pay for the rest herself – it's her choice.

Is the vehicle modification better funded or provided by another service or organisation?

We can't fund vehicle modifications if another organisation is responsible for funding or providing this support.⁶ For example, we wouldn't fund modifications to a public vehicle.

Your state or territory government, local council, and other organisations have responsibilities to support you with transport options. These include changes to remove barriers you may face because of your disability. This is to ensure you receive the same services as everyone else. These are called [reasonable adjustments](#).

Examples of reasonable adjustments that can be made to help you use the transport system are:

- accessible taxis
- accessible (lowering) buses
- help to access trains (driver provision of portable ramp)
- ramps and stairway lifts to train, tram, ferry, or bus platforms
- tactile paths so you can feel your way around
- automatic doors.

For example, many councils have community buses that people in the community can use. Many of these buses have had reasonable adjustments made to them. This means most people with a disability can use them.

We wouldn't pay for modifications to a community bus. Your local council would fund this under their community transport program. If your council doesn't provide community transport, they may have a disability inclusion officer you can talk to. You can ask the disability inclusion officer about the reasonable adjustments made by the council.

The Australian Government provides funding through the [Employment Assistance Fund](#) to cover the costs of making workplace changes so you can do your job. As part of this, the Employment Assistance Fund can help with modifications to vehicles used for work purposes.

We wouldn't fund vehicle modifications if funding was available through the Employment Assistance Fund to cover these modifications.

Your My NDIS Contact or support coordinator can help you to find other supports in the community.

Is the vehicle modification legal and safe?

We can only fund a vehicle modification that is safe and legal for you to use. We can't fund a support if it's likely to cause harm to you or others.⁷

The vehicle modification must be legal in the state or territory where you live and where the vehicle is registered. We can't fund supports that are against the law.⁸

It's your responsibility to get advice on whether the modification is legal and safe for you. Most assistive technology used in vehicles is higher risk. People can be injured by these items when they are not used or set up correctly.

For more information about what you need to do before you buy your assistive technology and what we mean by risk, check out [Our Guideline – Assistive technology](#). You can also check out our [Factsheet – Understand assistive technology evidence, advice, assessments and quotes](#).

Structural, restraint or control modifications to new or second hand vehicles

For modifications to new or second hand vehicles, we need to know the vehicle and modifications you want are safe and appropriate for you.

To do this, you'll need to give us evidence or a [vehicle modification assessment](#) from your occupational therapist or suitably qualified assessor. This will explain what modifications you need and how they'll work for you. We'll fund the cost of this assessment in your [capacity building supports](#) budget.

We'll also need to know:

- you'll be able to register the vehicle with your state or territory government once the modifications are complete
- you'll be able to give us an engineering certificate or authorisation report from a licensed vehicle modifier or certifier (to permit registration with the transport authority) when the modifications are complete.

The engineering certificate or authorisation report must confirm your vehicle is suitable to have the proposed modifications completed. It will also need to confirm the modifications meet the [Australian standards and rules](#) relevant in your state or territory. We'll fund this engineering certificate or authorisation report. You shouldn't make a final payment until you receive the certificate or report.

Existing imported or factory fitted modifications

We need to know vehicle modifications already installed in a vehicle, or modifications factory fitted in an imported vehicle, are legal, safe, and appropriate for you. Foreign imported vehicles that are factory fitted with modifications may not meet Australian standards for vehicle registration.

To confirm these modifications are legal and safe for you, you'll need to give us:

- evidence or a [vehicle modification assessment](#) from your occupational therapist or suitably qualified assessor. This will explain what modifications you need and how they'll work for you. We'll fund the cost of this assessment in your [capacity building supports](#) budget
- an engineering certificate or authorisation report from a licensed vehicle modifier or certifier, before we can decide whether to fund your vehicle modification support.

The engineering certificate or authorisation report must confirm the modifications meet [Australian standards and rules](#) relevant in your state or territory. You'll need to fund this, unless a valid certificate or report is already available.

You can find out more about what you need to do to register modified vehicles in your state or territory. When you register your vehicle, you'll need to give your registration authority a copy of the engineering certificate or authorisation report. Your licensed vehicle modifier will give you the certificate or report.

Are you buying a second hand vehicle that has already been modified?

We may fund the modifications that have already been made to a second hand car you're buying or plan to buy. This is not a payment towards the purchase of the car. It recognises the costs of the disability related vehicle modifications already in place.

We'll need to know:

- the vehicle is, or can be, registered in your state or territory
- how long ago the modifications were made and how much longer they are likely to last
- whether there's a manufacturer's warranty in place for the vehicle and modifications, and how long this will last
- whether the vehicle modifications will need repairs to meet your needs
- whether the modifications meet the relevant [Australian standards and rules](#)

- the cost of the original changes, where available, compared to the cost of making new changes.

You'll need to give us:

- evidence or an assessment from your occupational therapist. This will need to tell us the changes already made to the vehicle are safe for you and will suit your needs. Your occupational therapist can complete our [vehicle modification assessment template](#) to give us the information we need
- an engineering certificate or authorisation report from a licensed vehicle modifier or certifier that provides information about the condition of the changes made. The certificate or report must tell us the changes are safe, legal, in good working order, and meet the [Australian standards and rules](#) relevant in your state or territory
- a vehicle condition report, if the vehicle is older than 5 years and no longer under warranty.

For more information, go to [How old is your vehicle and is it under warranty?](#)

Once we have the information outlined above, we'll work out the current value of the modifications. We don't pay the full cost of the modifications, because they've already been used by someone else, are older and have lost value.

We calculate funding depending on how long ago the modifications were made, and how much the value of the modifications has reduced since this time. This is called depreciation.

We will fund the depreciated modification value in your [capital – assistive technology](#) budget.

Remember, everything we fund needs to meet all the [NDIS funding criteria](#). Just because a second hand vehicle with modifications may be cheaper, it may not always be good value for money or meet the other criteria.

Example

Janette needs a modified vehicle. She works with her occupational therapist to identify the disability related vehicle modifications and vehicle type she needs.

Janette then finds a second hand vehicle which has the modifications she needs. Janette gives us evidence from her occupational therapist that the modifications meet her disability related needs and is safe. This includes a list of the minimum modifications, a detailed assessment, and information about her successful trial of the car.

Janette also gets information about the vehicle's age, warranty, and condition. Janette asks the current vehicle owner about the cost of the original modifications, and gets an authorisation report from a licensed vehicle modifier confirming the modifications meet

Australian standards and rules. We can then work out the current value of the modifications to include in Janette's plan.

How do you get vehicle modifications and driving supports in your plan?

We will look at vehicle modifications together with all of your transport needs, and consider the best funded supports for your circumstances. The vehicle modification funding may reduce your need for other supports, for example transport funding.

You may not have previously owned or leased a modified vehicle but believe it may help you pursue your goals. If so, you can request funding to explore what vehicle modification supports you need.

To decide if we'll include funding to explore vehicle modification options in your plan, we need evidence or an assessment from your allied health provider or medical practitioner (GP) outlining your need for modified transport. Check out our [Factsheet – Understand assistive technology evidence, advice, assessments and quotes](#).

If you're planning to drive the modified vehicle, your medical practitioner should also check you're fit to drive, using the national [Assessing Fitness to Drive](#) medical standard.

Before we can decide if your vehicle modifications and driving supports meet the NDIS funding criteria, we need evidence or an assessment from your occupational therapist. If you want to drive the vehicle, this needs to be from a driver trained occupational therapist. The evidence or assessment should answer the questions in [What vehicle modifications and driving supports do we fund?](#)

The evidence or assessment should also tell us what new modifications are proposed. Or for existing modifications on a second hand car, it should confirm the modifications are safe for you and suit your needs. We have a [vehicle modification assessment template](#) your occupational therapist can complete. We would fund the cost of getting this assessment in your [capacity building supports](#) budget.

We'll also need to know either:

- you own the vehicle
- you plan to buy or lease the vehicle
- if you don't own the vehicle, its owner agrees in writing the modifications can be made, and you can use the vehicle for your transport needs.

If you're planning to buy a second hand vehicle that is older than 5 years and no longer under warranty, we'll need a vehicle condition report. A licensed vehicle modifier or certifier

needs to provide this report. The report should provide the details outlined in [How old is your vehicle and is it under warranty?](#)

If the vehicle already has modifications that suit your needs, the report must describe those modifications, and confirm:

- they meet the [Australian standards and rules](#) relevant in your state or territory
- how old they are, and their likely remaining service life.

If the modifications are being made to your vehicle, the report will need to:

- confirm the vehicle is suitable to have modifications completed on it
- provide details of all the proposed modifications
- confirm that when the modifications are completed they'll meet the [Australian standards and rules](#) relevant in your state or territory
- include any cost to get the engineering certificate or authorisation report for registration in your state or territory.

Vehicle modifications are a type of assistive technology. You always need to get advice before you buy any assistive technology. But the type of evidence or assessment you need will depend on whether the assistive technology is low cost, mid cost, or high cost.

Low cost assistive technology

If you only need a low cost piece of assistive technology for your vehicle you need to talk with your occupational therapist about what you need. A low cost piece of assistive technology for your car or vehicle is generally an item that is:

- under \$1,500
- available off the shelf
- authorised for use in a motor vehicle.

Learn more about [funding for low cost assistive technology](#).

If your vehicle is older than 5 years and no longer under warranty, we need a vehicle condition report. This is to confirm it is safe and reliable for daily use, and suitable to modify. We would fund the cost of the inspection in your [core – consumables](#) budget.

Example

Leanne is having difficulty getting in and out of the driver's seat. She contacts her occupational therapist who suggests a turning seat cushion and a handy bar.

The therapist explains how to use these and tests them with Leanne. The equipment makes it easy for Leanne to get in and out of the driver's seat, so she buys the items using her low cost consumables budget. Getting these items means Leanne doesn't need to modify her vehicle, so she doesn't have to get an engineering certificate.

Mid cost assistive technology

If you need a vehicle modification that costs between \$1,500 and \$15,000 you'll need to talk with your occupational therapist about what you need. You may not need an itemised quote but it's useful to give it to us if you have one. You will always need to get advice and evidence for mid cost assistive technology. Follow the evidence requirements in [Our Guideline – Assistive technology, How can you get mid cost assistive technology in your plan?](#)

You can also check out our [Factsheet - Understand assistive technology evidence, advice, assessments and quotes](#).

High cost assistive technology

For modifications over \$15,000 you'll need to give us an itemised quote. Sometimes we might need a second quote to compare similar modifications between providers or to check the item is value for money. The quote will need to tell us how much it will cost to make the new modifications or transfer existing modifications to your vehicle.

You'll need to follow the evidence requirements in [Our Guideline – Assistive technology, How can you get high cost assistive technology in your plan?](#) You can also check out our [Factsheet - Understand assistive technology evidence, advice, assessments and quotes](#).

For vehicles with existing modifications we need evidence the modified vehicle will be [safe and appropriate for you](#).

If the vehicle is currently registered in your state or territory, you can give us a copy of the current registration certificate and the engineering certificate or authorisation report for the modifications. The report from the licensed vehicle modifier may also include this evidence.

Will you be driving the vehicle?

If you are going to be driving the vehicle, we need to know you have a suitable driver's licence. If you don't have a licence yet, we'll need to know it's likely you're able to get one. This means you'll need to get a:

- GP to assess you using the national [Assessing Fitness to Drive](#) medical standards. This is not generally funded by the NDIS

- driver trained occupational therapist or your state or territory licensing authority to do a driving assessment with you. We may be able to fund this assessment, including a driving instructor for the on-road part.

Do you need help to transfer in and out of a vehicle?

You may need a piece of equipment that's low cost and available off the shelf to help with vehicle transfer. This type of equipment usually only needs minor adjustments or straightforward training. This could include things like basic transfer equipment such as a:

- handy bar car handle
- swivel disc
- car transfer pad.

If you only need low cost standard equipment, you won't need to get an assessment and quotes. However, you need to talk with your occupational therapist about any type of equipment you need related to transport.

If the equipment meets our [NDIS funding criteria](#), we'll include funding for the equipment in your plan. It will be in the [core – consumables](#) section of your plan.

You can talk to your My NDIS Contact or support coordinator for more information.

What other supports do we fund?

When we fund vehicle modifications and driving supports, we may also fund other related supports. This includes help to:

- remove modifications from an old vehicle and fit them to a compatible new vehicle, where this is value for money. For example, if you buy a new car and need the equipment moved from your old car to the new one
- cover extra insurance costs because you own a modified vehicle. We'll fund the increased amount of the premium that is a result of your disability related modifications, not the total cost of the policy. You'll need to provide us with information from your insurer. This information will need to tell us the cost to insure the vehicle on its own and to insure the vehicle with the modifications
- get an engineering certificate or authorisation report that relates to the modification you need to give us when you register a modified vehicle. You can contact your state or territory government for more details on what you need to give us
- get specialised driving lessons if you need to learn to drive a modified vehicle

- get additional driving lessons where your disability affects your ability to learn to drive. It's important to remember that learning to drive often costs money whether or not you have a disability so we don't fund all driving lessons
- fund a solution to your regular transport needs while your vehicle is being modified. We may pay for a hire vehicle for you while your modification is being completed or we may add extra transport funding to your plan. We'll consider your situation, what will meet your needs and be value for money in the short term.

You can talk to your My NDIS Contact or support coordinator about these extra supports.

What happens once you have funding for vehicle modifications and driving supports in your plan?

Once you have vehicle modifications or other supports included in your plan, you can start putting them in place. Talk to your My NDIS Contact or support coordinator about the next steps.

You should also check out [Our Guideline – Assistive technology, What do you need to do before you buy your assistive technology?](#) And our [Factsheet - Understand assistive technology evidence, advice, assessments and quotes](#).

Your funding will be in different budgets of your plan, depending on the type of support.

If you have any questions, please [contact us](#). If your needs change, remember you can talk to us at any time or request a change to your plan. Learn more about [changing your plan](#).

Funding to explore vehicle modification supports

If you have funding to explore what vehicle modification supports you need, you'll find this in your [capacity building supports](#) budget. The funding means you can get help from a suitably qualified assessor to:

- help you trial the equipment you need to make sure it's the best fit for your needs
- recommend equipment that will meet your needs
- give us evidence or an assessment and quotes if you need high cost vehicle modifications.

If a low cost assistive technology solution will help with your vehicle access needs, your assessor or advisor can help you:

- choose and buy the right equipment once the funding has been approved
- set up the equipment

- learn how to use the equipment.

Funding for low cost assistive technology

If you have approved funding to buy basic or standard pieces of equipment this will be in the [core – consumables](#) section of your plan.

If your vehicle is older than 5 years and no longer under warranty, you can also use this funding for one inspection for a vehicle condition report. This will confirm your vehicle is safe and reliable for daily use, and suitable to modify.

Although you'll be able to buy some low cost equipment without an assessment from your occupational therapist, you need to get their advice for your safety.

However there are some types of low cost equipment that legally require a driver trained occupational therapy assessment. For example, manual spinner knobs are low cost, but you need a driver trained occupational therapist assessment to make sure they are safe and appropriate for you.

You should upload the written advice you get to your myplace portal. But you don't need further approvals from us to get low cost assistive technology based on your occupational therapist's advice if you have funds in your budget.

You can check out our [Factsheet - Understand assistive technology evidence, advice, assessments and quotes](#).

Funding for mid and high cost vehicle modifications

If you have funding for mid and high cost vehicle modifications, this will be in your [capital supports](#) budget. You'll also likely receive funding for repair and maintenance of your vehicle modifications. Funding for minor repairs would be in the [core – consumables](#) section of your plan.

Instructions and guidance for you and your carers to use your new modifications is usually provided by the licensed vehicle modifier. If you need more detailed training from an occupational therapist, funding will be included in your [capacity building supports](#) budget.

Funding for getting your licence or learning to drive

If you have funding to help you find out about learning to drive, this will be included your [capacity building supports](#) budget. It can include a driver trained occupational therapist assessment, a driving instructor for the on-road part of the assessment, and help to try out a modified or non-modified vehicle and learn how to drive it.

Funding for extra insurance costs

If you have funding to help with extra insurance costs, this will be in the [core – consumables](#) section of your plan.

What if you don't agree with our decision?

If we decide vehicle modifications and driving supports don't meet our [NDIS funding criteria](#), we can't include them in your plan.

We'll give you written reasons why we made the decision. You can [contact us](#) if you'd like more detail about the reasons for our decision.

If you don't agree with a decision we make about vehicle modifications and driving supports, you can ask for an internal review of our decision.⁹

You'll need to ask for an internal review within 3 months of getting your plan.¹⁰

Learn more about [reviewing our decisions](#).

Reference list

¹ NDIS Act s 34.

² NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 5.1(b).

³ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 5.1(d).

⁴⁴ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 5.2(b).

⁵ NDIS Act s 34(1)(c).

⁶ NDIS Act s 34(1)(f).

⁷ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 5.1(a).

⁸ NDIS (Supports for Participants) Rules r 5.3(a).

⁹ NDIS Act s 100.

¹⁰ NDIS Act s 100(2).