# Blind Citizens Australia logo

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# Advice for Dog Guide Owners

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## Maintenance Costs

The NDIA will assist with the cost of ‘maintaining’ your dog guide. As a general rule, they will include $3,000 in your plan to cover the yearly cost of food, grooming, flea and tick control, vaccinations and other related expenses.

It is a good idea to ask for this funding to be self-managed; you will not be able to receive quotes for these items and it takes a long time for the NDIA to approve a quote. If you self-manage just this item or your whole plan you can purchase what your dog guide needs and claim from the participant portal.

If you believe your dog guide expenses will be higher than this, you can provide evidence in the form of receipts or statements from your vet. The $3,000 figure is a baseline only and can be increased if required, with evidence. If throughout the duration of your plan your dog guide has an accident and requires additional veterinary care, you can request a review of your plan to consider additional funding.

This money is generally allocated under Assistive Technology however in some cases it may be included in your Core budget.

## If you are receiving a new dog

If you are receiving a new dog, the cost of the dog and your initial training will be included in your plan. If you already have a plan, you will need to contact the National Disability Insurance Agency and advise them that your circumstances have changed and you need your plan reviewed to incorporate the associated cost.

A review of your plan may take some weeks. For additional advice on how to request a review, see our fact sheet on Change of Circumstances Reviews.

## Orientation and Mobility Training

When your plan is reviewed, ensure that adequate funding is available in the Capacity Building - Daily Living budget to cover the time you will need to cover your yearly orientation and mobility assessment. This should be in addition to any other orientation and mobility training you may require.

If you are not sure how much Orientation and Mobility training you may need, contact the organisation from which you received your dog guide and discuss your circumstances with them directly.