# Section 33 – Frequently Asked Questions

## What are funding periods?

A funding period is the time that part of a participant’s funding is available for and how long it needs to last.

Participants can spend up to the amount of funding available in that time. Funding periods apply to the funding component amounts in participant’s plan.

## What is the total funding amount?

Plans now include a total funding amount. This shows the total amount of funds allocated to all reasonable and necessary supports over the length of a participant’s plan.

The funding is divided into funding components, like Core, Capacity building, or Capital. The total amount for each funding component will be made available to participants in specific time intervals called funding periods. Each funding component has its own funding periods.

Funding periods won’t change the total funding amount, they only change when participants can access their funds.

## What are funding components?

Funding components group together related types of supports in a participant's plan. Each component has an allocated amount that can be used to purchase supports covered under that component.

For example, the Core funding component might include support for daily activities, while Capacity Building could cover therapies or training.

## How does the Agency set the length and amount of funding periods for participants?

Funding periods in NDIS plans are not new. Changes to the NDIS Act introduced funding periods in October 2024 and all new and reassessed plans since then have included 12-month funding periods.

The NDIA sets the length and amount of funding periods in line with NDIS laws, taking into account a participant’s individual needs and circumstances. This includes things like preferences, any risks with overspending and any risks of harm, fraud, or financial exploitation.

## Will all participants who move to funding periods only be able to receive funding in quarterly instalments, or is there a possibility for participants to request longer funding periods?

From 19 May 2025, funding periods will usually be set at 3-months to give flexibility to participants and also help participants manage budgets. This won’t happen until participants get a new or reassessed plan following discussion with them to understand their circumstances.

Participants will only be able to use funding available in the current funding period and claims for supports that go over the available funding will not be paid. If a participant doesn’t use all their funds in one funding period, the unused amount will roll over to the next funding period within the same plan. Unused funds won't carry over into new plans.

Different parts of the participant’s plan may have different funding periods depending on the type of support.

For example, a participant with a 12-month plan will generally have funding made available in 4 funding periods spaced evenly across the year. A participant with a longer plan, such as 3 or 5 years, may still have 3-month funding periods so they can regularly manage their budget.

A participant may have some supports funded monthly, for example Supported Independent Living (SIL), and others every 3 months.

With regards to longer funding periods, in some cases, participants can also request longer periods if their support needs are uncertain or expected to change gradually.

## Is it true that if families use their funds and have gaps between funding periods, they will lose their places with providers and need to go back on waitlists?

Participants need to use their NDIS funding in line with their plan. The supports they buy must be NDIS supports. They will also need to spend in line with any funding periods or funding component amounts in their plan.

Funding is usually spread evenly across a participant’s plan funding periods to help them manage supports throughout the length of their plan.

For example, if a participant has a 12-month plan with 3-month funding periods, they’ll typically get 25% of their funding at the start of each period.

Some supports may be funded differently:

* Daily supports (like in-home care) consider the number of days in each period, including weekends and holidays.
* One-off or setup supports (like assistive technology, home or vehicle modifications, or medium-term accommodation) may be fully funded at the start or when needed. Unused funds can roll over to the next period.
* Enteral feeding products are funded for 12 months at the start of each year.

Participants might also get more funding upfront for:

* behaviour support planning
* plan manager setup
* changing needs or situations (for example, hospital discharge)
* intensive capacity building
* bulk buying consumables (for example, continence products).

Participants can request changes to their funding periods if their needs change, such as if they need more or less support. They can do this through a plan change request. They’ll need to provide information explaining why a change is necessary, and we will work with them to adjust their plan accordingly.

If a participant’s overall support needs haven’t changed and they can manage within their total plan budget, they may be able to adjust how their funds are used over time.

For example, if there’s a temporary reason to use more funding earlier, like getting a place in an intensive capacity-building or early intervention program, they can request a plan variation. This would shift more funding into the current period, with less allocated to later periods.

This means they don’t need a full plan reassessment, but it’s important to budget carefully, as there will be less funding available in later funding periods. The total funding amount will not change.

An example of this is starting an early intervention program sooner than expected or needing extra support during a period of increased need due to a fluctuating condition. If these needs are known in advance, a participant’s plan can be ‘front-loaded’, so they have more funding early on and don’t need to come back to the Agency if something changes

## Can participants request shorter or longer funding periods?

Yes, participants can request shorter funding periods if that suits their needs better, for example, if they need more frequent access to their funds, or better management of their budget.

In some cases, they can also request longer periods if their support needs are uncertain or expected to change gradually.

## When will participants get their funding?

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## Can unused funding be rolled over to the next funding period?

At the end of each funding period, any unspent funds will rollover into the next funding period in the same plan. This means the unused funding will be added to the new funding period.

However, funds will only rollover during the same plan and the total funding in the plan will stay the same. This approach will help ensure that support is available as needed over time.

## Can funding from a future funding period be brought forward?

Funding from a future funding period generally can't be brought forward.

In exceptional circumstances, the NDIA may bring forward a future funding period if there is an urgent need. This won't change the total amount of funding in the plan, so careful budgeting is still needed to ensure there's enough funding to meet support needs later in the plan.

If a participant's situation has changed and they need more or different supports, they can contact the NDIA to request a change to their plan.

## Can a participant request a review of a decision about the funding periods and total budget amounts in their plan?

If a participant is not happy with the funding periods and total budget amounts in their plan, they can request an internal review of their plan.

## What happens if a participant runs out of funding or their situation changes?

Participants can only use the funding available in their current funding period, including any unspent funds rolled over from previous funding periods.

If participants use all their funding before the end of their funding period, changes to NDIS laws mean the NDIA cannot provide extra funding. Participants will need to wait until the next funding period begins to access more funds. This is why it’s important for participants to manage their budget carefully and spend in line with their plan.

If a participant’s situation changes and they need more or different supports, they can request a change to their plan. It’s important for participants to ask for help early, before funds run out.

## What are some examples of supports where more funds in the first funding period can be considered by the Agency?

Examples of supports where more funds in the first funding period can be considered include the following:

* Behaviour support funds to develop a behaviour support plan
* Continence products if participant wants to bulk-buy for value for money
* Home Enteral Nutrition (HEN) products so participants can purchase these up front in each year of the plan
* Capacity building supports for example, early intervention ahead of school transition
* Supports with establishment or set-up fees (such as plan management)

## What are some examples of supports where one-month funding periods can be considered by the Agency?

Considering the nature and cost of these supports, one-month funding periods may be considered for:

* Home and living supports:
  + Supported Independent Living (SIL)
  + Individual Living Options (ILO)
  + Home and living funding of $200,000 or more per annum
  + Core funding for assistance with daily living of $200,000 or more per annum
* Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)
* Residential aged care cross-billing (Young people in residential aged care)

## Where can a participant find information on their funding period?

Funding periods will be visible in the participant portal, the my NDIS app and their plan document.

Participants will be able to see how much funding is available in each period, how much has been used, how much funding has been released in the plan so far and when the next amount will become available.

## Links to information online

* [Changes to NDIS funding periods | NDIS](https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/10721-changes-ndis-funding-periods)
* [A message from the CEO about supporting you to manage your NDIS funding | NDIS](https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/10728-message-ceo-about-supporting-you-manage-your-ndis-funding)
* [Frequently asked questions about legislation | NDIS](https://www.ndis.gov.au/changes-ndis-legislation/frequently-asked-questions-about-legislation#funding)
* [Creating your plan | NDIS](https://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/your-plan-menu/creating-your-plan)