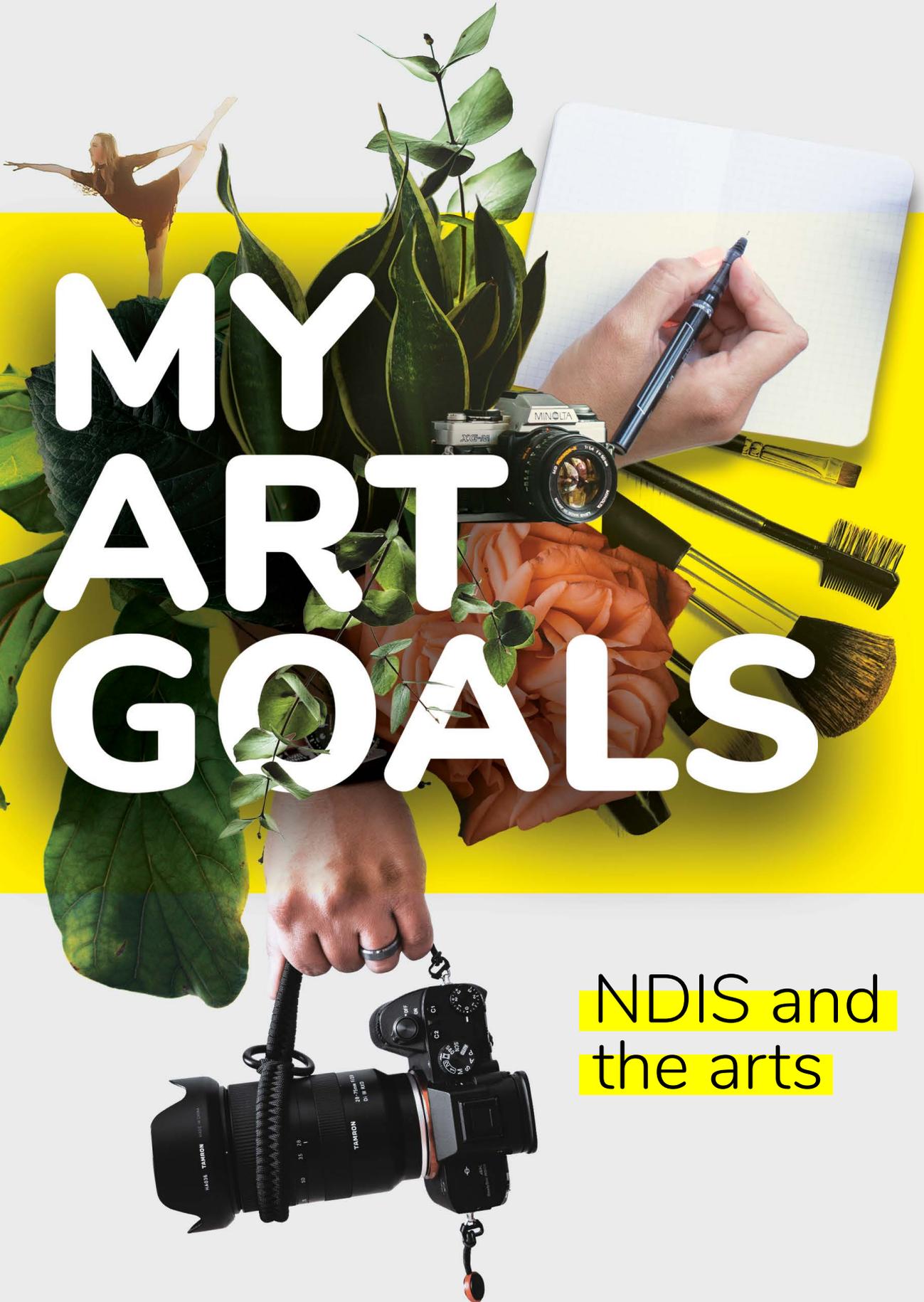




Australian Government

Department of Communications and the Arts



MY ART GOALS

NDIS and
the arts

About *My art goals*

My art goals shows some of the ways National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants who have creative or cultural jobs, or who want to participate recreationally in the arts, can reach their goals. *My art goals* provides information about how the NDIS might support participants with arts goals, or about what supports or services might be available outside the NDIS.

The NDIS funds a range of supports and services. To find out more about NDIS funding, reasonable and necessary decision-making, and to get advice for your circumstances, visit www.ndis.gov.au.

My art goals is a scenario-based resource developed by the Department of Communications and the Arts in partnership with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).



Where to get more information

The purpose of this document is to provide general guidance about how NDIS plans can support arts goals. Individual circumstances, goals and other factors will ultimately determine what is reasonable and necessary within each participant's NDIS plan. Therefore the advice in the document is of a general nature only.

Contact the NDIS

To get information for your circumstances, you can contact the NDIS.

Website www.ndis.gov.au

Email enquiries@ndis.gov.au

Phone 1800 800 110

Find your [nearest NDIS office or contact](#)

Choose Art

Choose Art is a national accessible arts directory for inclusive and accessible arts programs, opportunities and events across Australia.

www.chooseart.com.au

Contact Arts Access Australia

Arts Access Australia is the national peak body for arts and disability.

Website www.artsaccessaustralia.org

Email info@artsaccessaustralia.org

You can find your state or territory arts and disability peak body on [Arts Access Australia's website](#).

Contact the Department of Communications and the Arts

To find out about arts and disability you can contact the Department of Communications and the Arts.

Website www.arts.gov.au

Email arts.disability@arts.gov.au

Phone 1800 185 693

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Practising artists

Furniture designer and maker — tool modification and professional fees



My first goal

To grow my business

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To establish a successful furniture design and production business as a professional sole trader

Angela's story

Angela is a self-employed furniture designer and maker who has low vision. Angela finished her TAFE qualification last month and is setting up a workshop in her garage at home so that she can continue to make and sell her designs. Angela has also joined a professional association for a \$60 membership fee. In order to make woodworking power tools safe for Angela to use they require modifications. While she was a student, Angela's TAFE paid for modifications to equipment she used in class. She has now purchased some second-hand power tools for her workshop that need modification.

Can Angela include capital support in her NDIS plan to pay for the modifications?

The [Employment Assistance Fund](#) (EAF), administered by the Australian Government's JobAccess program, gives financial help to eligible people with disability and employers to buy work-related modifications and equipment. The EAF is available to eligible people with disability who are about to start a job, are self-employed or who are currently working. If NDIS participants are not eligible to access EAF support, the NDIS may fund this type of support as well as explore volunteer organisations who modify and create tools and equipment for people with disability.

Can she pay for the professional association fee from her NDIS plan?

A professional membership fee is a cost associated with Angela's business and not related to her disability. Such costs are not typically funded through the NDIS because they are not directly related to a participant's disability.

A Local Area Coordinator or Support Coordinator can assist with identifying mainstream and community organisations that can assist in accessing assistance where not provided by the NDIS. Subscriptions to professional associations may be claimed as a tax deduction. See the [Australian Taxation Office website](#) for more information.

What rules apply?

All supports funded or provided through the NDIS must satisfy both the [National Disability Insurance Scheme \(Supports for Participants\) Rules 2013](#) and section 34 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#).

Costs associated with running a business are not typically funded, as explained at rule 5.1(b) of the Supports for Participants Rules.

Author — Writers' festival attendance

My first goal

To build my professional networks and my skills as a writer

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To publish my collection of short stories and continue to earn an income from my writing



Catrina's story

Catrina is a published author who is currently working on a collection of short stories. Catrina lives in Castlemaine and has been invited to speak at a writers' festival in Bendigo. As a presenter, Catrina will pay a reduced festival attendance fee. The festival is an opportunity for Catrina to grow her professional networks, promote her work, and learn from other writers in masterclasses that are included in the attendance fee. She needs her partner to go to the festival with her to provide personal care. They will catch the train from Castlemaine to Bendigo, and mobility taxis at either end of the journey.

If Catrina is unable to attend an activity or use public transport without attendant care support then where available, a Companion Card will enable her to obtain a second ticket at no charge for her attendant carer.

What rules apply?

All supports funded or provided through the NDIS must satisfy both the [Supports for Participants Rules](#) and section 34 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#).

Costs associated with running a business are not typically funded, as explained at rule 5.1(b) of the Supports for Participants Rules.

Can Catrina use her NDIS plan to pay for:

- **The conference fee?**

This may be considered as a business development opportunity and not directly related to Catrina's disability, therefore it would not typically be funded by the NDIS.

- **Transport to and from the festival location for herself and her partner?**

If transport supports are in her plan, then Catrina can use these funds for her transport. Where Catrina requires the support of her partner to use public transport or other transport options such as taxis, the cost of the partner's travel may meet the reasonable and necessary criteria.

Sculptor — web development tutoring



My first goal

To develop a website to sell my sculptures

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To maintain my sculpture practice and run the business side of the practice

Zheng's story

Zheng is a sculptor with an acquired brain injury who lives in Newcastle. He has been working on his art for a couple of years and has exhibited at the community centre (where he takes classes) and in a festival put on by his local council. At the last community centre show all his sculptures were sold. Zheng wants to take his practice to the next level and to start selling more work. He plans to create a website to market and sell his sculptures more widely. Zheng tried to take a website development course at an adult education centre, but found that the classes moved too fast, were confusing, and that he became fatigued because of the length of the classes. Zheng has found a web development tutor who offers one-on-one sessions tailored to the student.

Can Zheng pay for web development tutoring in his capacity building supports?

It would be important to first explore what reasonable adjustment should be available through mainstream education to better support Zheng. If it is demonstrated that his support needs cannot be met through reasonable adjustment, time-limited capacity building support may be considered.

Additionally, Zheng may be able to access [New Business Assistance with NEIS*](#), which offers business development support.

A Local Area Coordinator or Support Coordinator can assist participants to make contact and discuss their needs with education providers, or link them with a NEIS provider.

* New Enterprise Incentive Scheme

What rules apply?

All supports funded or provided through the NDIS must satisfy both the [Supports for Participants Rules](#) and section 34 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#).

Actor — additional support during touring



My first goal

To go on tour with my theatre company and be a valued member of the cast

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To maintain my employment with a theatre company

Jenny's story

Jenny is an actor with autism and is employed with a theatre company that tours nationally. The company tours for two to four weeks at a time for a total of 12 weeks a year. The rest of the year is spent in rehearsal and development. During rehearsal and development periods, Jenny has a set routine and lives with her dad. She goes to a therapy session once a week. During touring weeks, Jenny is travelling, staying in unfamiliar places, meeting lots of new people, and doing six shows a week. Jenny knows that she can get overwhelmed during touring weeks so at these times she has phone or skype sessions with her therapist two or three times a week.

Can Jenny build additional therapy support into her NDIS plan for touring periods?

Unless Jenny's plan says that her therapy support must be delivered in a specific way, Jenny will be able to implement her supports with a high degree of flexibility, allowing her to increase the frequency of the support when required.

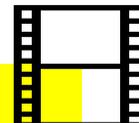
Reasonable and necessary decision making considers the supports required to help the participant to pursue their goals, objectives and aspirations and to undertake activities to enable the participant's social and economic participation.

What rules apply?

All supports funded or provided through the NDIS must satisfy both the [Supports for Participants Rules](#) and section 34 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#).

Further information about reasonable and necessary decision making may be found in the [NDIS Operational Guidelines](#).

Video artist — personal care and accommodation



My first goal

To build my professional networks, build the audience for my art, and take advantage of professional development opportunities

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To be an established visual artist and make a regular income from my practice

Moh's story

Moh is a video artist who has been accepted into a six-week residency program interstate. Moh has limited mobility — he uses a wheelchair and requires personal care. The organisation hosting the residency covers Moh's flights and accommodation. The residency organisation is in a heritage building and has told Moh that while the building is on one level, there is a step to get inside. At home, Moh has a hoist to help him get into bed and his wife provides his personal care. Moh will need to hire a hoist for short-term rental accommodation, and will need personal care support during the day and at night. His wife cannot travel with him because they have young children who she will care for while Moh is away.

Can Moh include in his NDIS plan:

- **Funding to install a temporary ramp at the residency building?**

Access to the building is a reasonable adjustment that the residency organisation must make. The organisation has responsibility for facilitating access to the building under the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#).

- **Funding to hire a hoist during the residency?**

Funding for short-term hire for this equipment may be included in Moh's plan as a reasonable and necessary support.

- **Funding for 24-hour personal care support for the six weeks of the residency?**

If this was requested as a Change of Circumstances unscheduled plan review, Moh's planner would first establish whether his existing plan could be used to cover this six weeks' increase in personal care funding. If a Change of Circumstances review was agreed, or if the residency was known about and could be planned for at Moh's scheduled review, the planner would explore the additional support needs as part of the reasonable and necessary planning decision. Reasonable and necessary funding would not be limited to Moh's support needs once he arrives at the residency program. Any attendant carer support required while Moh is travelling may also meet the reasonable and necessary support criteria.

What rules apply?

All supports funded or provided through the NDIS must satisfy both the [Supports for Participants Rules](#) and section 34 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#).

Further information on reasonable adjustment is provided in the NDIS Supports for Participants Rules.

Further information about reasonable and necessary decision making may be found in the [NDIS Operational Guidelines](#).

Dancer — strength and conditioning



My first goal

To continue to build my strength

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To maintain my income from performing and teaching and gain permanent employment with a dance company

Declan's story

Declan is a dancer and has cerebral palsy. Declan takes short term performance contracts with two dance companies that he often works with. These contracts usually cover 12 weeks a year. He also teaches dance and movement to children with disability one or two days a week during school term to supplement his contract work. To maintain his dance practice, Declan does strength and conditioning exercises every day. He has two sessions a week with a professionally-accredited exercise physiologist.

Can Declan pay for his strength and conditioning sessions through his NDIS plan?

If the specific strength and conditioning work Declan is doing is directly related to his disability, rather than standard training usually undertaken by dancers, then the support may be considered a reasonable and necessary support.

If a participant is able to undertake an exercise training program without the supervision of a qualified exercise physiologist or trainer, then the NDIS would consider if it was more appropriate to fund the preparation of an exercise plan to address the impact of the participant's disability and if necessary, fund a support worker to assist with the implementation.

What rules apply?

All supports funded or provided through the NDIS must satisfy both the [Supports for Participants Rules](#) and section 34 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#).

Further information about reasonable and necessary decision making may be found in the [NDIS Operational Guidelines](#).

Circus performer — Auslan interpreter



My first goal

To build friendships with my classmates and build my professional networks

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To be employed by a circus company

Max's story

Max is studying circus arts at an accredited training institution and is rehearsing for its end-of-year showcase. Max is Deaf, and during rehearsals uses an Auslan interpreter. The interpreter's services during rehearsals are paid for by the circus school as a reasonable adjustment. Before and after rehearsals, however, there is no interpreter and Max often feels excluded from the rest of the class. Some of their classmates have learned some basic signs, but Max can't join in with the conversation when everyone is getting ready and warming up for rehearsal. In the past, Max has missed out when classmates have shared information about upcoming performance opportunities due to being unable to follow the conversation.

Can Max pay for interpreting services before and after rehearsal and classes through their NDIS plan?

Yes, Max can use the funding for Auslan in their NDIS plan. All plans for people who use Auslan include some funding for Auslan interpreting that can be used flexibly.

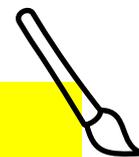
Communication supports required as a result of the participant's disability (for example, Auslan, Braille, remote captioning) may be considered reasonable and necessary where these are not delivered under mainstream programs.

What rules apply?

All supports funded or provided through the NDIS must satisfy both the [Supports for Participants Rules](#) and section 34 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#).

Further information about reasonable and necessary decision making may be found in the [NDIS Operational Guidelines](#).

Visual artist — business support



My first goal

To build my skills as a painter, learn how to talk to art galleries and learn about exhibition proposals

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To show my art in a gallery and sell some paintings

Jess's story

Jess is a visual artist with an intellectual disability. Jess has been taking private painting tutoring with a local teacher for a year. Her teacher has encouraged her to apply to exhibit in some local galleries and art spaces so that she can get some public exposure and start selling her paintings. The teacher advises her to go to some gallery openings first to meet some curators and exhibition programmers so that they know a bit about her and her work when she applies. Jess has downloaded the exhibition proposal forms for some of the galleries and art spaces. The forms ask for her CV, an artist statement, a description of the exhibition she is proposing and a budget. Jess needs help to engage with galleries and to write exhibition proposals. Her teacher offers to assist her outside of lessons. She will go to the openings with her, help her write her proposals, and be the contact person for any correspondence.

Can Jess pay for her teacher's business and mentoring services through her NDIS plan?

Jess may be incurring additional costs directly associated with the impact of her disability. That is, without her intellectual disability, this is something Jess could do independently. Support may be funded in these circumstances.

As part of the considerations when determining reasonable and necessary funding, the NDIS must consider what is available through mainstream and community programs and what it is reasonable to expect families, carers and informal networks and community to provide. When determining what is reasonable to expect families, carers and informal networks to provide, the NDIS will consider all family and carer demands and personal activities of these informal support groups.

What rules apply?

All supports funded or provided through the NDIS must satisfy both the [Supports for Participants Rules](#) and section 34 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#).

Further information about reasonable and necessary decision making may be found in the [NDIS Operational Guidelines](#).

Film maker — workshop attendance



My first goal

To improve my film making skills, meet other film makers and learn how to market my short films

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To have a film accepted for a film competition or festival

Neha's story

Neha aspires to be a film maker and has Down syndrome. She is developing a short film to submit to competitions and festivals. An arts and disability organisation who she has worked with in the past tells her about an upcoming series of workshops. These workshops are specifically for film makers with disabilities. There are ten places available. The workshops run once a week over six weeks and cover script development, production and marketing. Neha has made a couple of short films before and thinks the course will help her develop her skills and get her work seen by more people. She thinks the most useful part will be the workshops about marketing, which include practical exercises and guidance about how to submit films to competitions and festivals.

Can Neha include the cost of the workshop in her NDIS plan?

Training course fees which are for general learning and vocational specific are generally not funded under the NDIS. While this workshop is for people with disability only, the NDIA would need to know if the training and tuition would support Neha to manage the impact of her disability as a film maker. If the course develops personal skills, life skills or work readiness, it may be considered a reasonable and necessary support.

What rules apply?

All supports funded or provided through the NDIS must satisfy both the [Supports for Participants Rules](#) and section 34 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#).

Further information about reasonable and necessary decision making may be found in the [NDIS Operational Guidelines](#).

Recreational arts activities

Community choir participation — support worker



My first goal

To make new friends in my area

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To feel part of my community

Mario's story

Mario wants to join a community choir so that he can meet new people and feel a part of his community. Mario has limited mobility and needs help to find a choir that suits his needs and interests. He'd like to find a choir that meets once a week in the evenings, somewhere near his home, and where there will be people about his age. He will also need a personal carer with him to be able to attend choir meetings.

Can Mario include in his NDIS plan:

- **Someone to help him find the right choir for him?**

Depending on the level of support Mario needs to find a choir, this might be something his Local Area Coordinator can help with. If Mario needs more intensive supports to find a choir, then a support worker or support coordinator may need to assist. The support required to find, attend and join a community choir (or other community arts groups) that is specifically related to a person's disability may be a reasonable and necessary support. Membership costs that would be payable regardless of whether or not a person had a disability would not be considered reasonable and necessary.

- **Personal care support to attend choir meetings?**

Yes, Mario could choose to use his core supports for this purpose.

What rules apply?

All supports funded or provided through the NDIS must satisfy both the [Supports for Participants Rules](#) and section 34 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#).

Further information about reasonable and necessary decision making may be found in the [NDIS Operational Guidelines](#).

Art gallery volunteer — modifications



My first goal

To become a volunteer at an art gallery

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To feel part of my community and expand my interests

Lynne's story

Lynne is going to start volunteering at her state's art gallery. She will be leading group tours of exhibitions. Lynne is a Noongar woman with low vision who can't access some of the materials provided to tour guides because they are in an inaccessible pdf format. Lynne requires the pdfs to be converted to a word document and edited for accuracy, completeness and accessibility. She also needs a tactile map of the exhibition space, and for someone to guide her around new exhibitions so that she knows where art works are in the exhibition space.

Can Lynne include in her NDIS plan:

- **The cost of accessible format editing for documents related to her volunteering?**

Organisations are required to provide workplace adjustments to create an inclusive environment. This applies to employees and volunteers.

Providing documents in an accessible format for volunteers with a vision impairment would be a workplace adjustment.

- **The cost of producing a tactile map of the gallery?**

As above, a tactile map of the gallery would be required for Lynne to lead the group tours and therefore would also be a workplace adjustment.

- **Having a guide through new exhibitions?**

Given the guide is only required short-term (to introduce the volunteer to new exhibitions), this would also be the responsibility of the employer under reasonable adjustment. It would not be considered a disproportionately high expenditure or disruption for the employer.

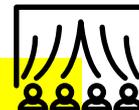
Should Lynne have additional disability-specific adjustments that are required, that would not be considered reasonable adjustments, the NDIS may provide time-limited support to Lynne and the gallery to develop strategies for ongoing supervision and support for Lynne to fully participate as a volunteer at the gallery.

What rules apply?

Under the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#), employers have an obligation to make adjustments to accommodate a person's disability unless that adjustment would result in unjustifiable hardship.

The [National Standards for Volunteer Involvement 2015](#) assert that volunteers are provided with supervision and support that enables them to undertake their roles and responsibilities.

Community theatre — attending with a support person



My first goal

To attend community events with my friends and family

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To feel part of my community

Anh's story

Anh likes to go to the musicals that her community theatre puts on twice a year. Due to her intellectual disability, Anh needs a support person to go with her to help explain what is happening in the story. Usually Anh goes to the musicals with a friend who does this for her. Sometimes she goes with a support worker who explains instead.

Can Anh use her NDIS plan to:

- **Pay for her ticket to the musical?**

No. This would be considered an everyday expense and not covered by the NDIS.

- **Pay for her friend's ticket?**

Where a support worker or attendant carer is required so that Anh can go to the theatre, the cost for this support may be funded by the NDIS. This means that if a complimentary ticket is not available through the Companion Card program, reasonable and necessary funding may be available for the cost of the friend's ticket. There may be informal or community supports that could assist Anh to attend the theatre, such as a gig buddy. A Local Area Coordinator or Support Coordinator could assist Anh to link into these networks.

- **Pay for a support worker's ticket?**

Yes, the NDIS may pay for both the support worker's time, and their admission ticket if a complimentary ticket is not available through the Companion Card program.

What rules apply?

Everyday expenses are not usually funded as per rule 5.1(d) of the [Supports for Participants Rules](#).

Costs which are incurred that directly relate to the participant's disability may be funded under the NDIS.

Drum lessons — tailored tutoring



My first goal

To start drum lessons

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To learn new things and do extra-curricular activities

Sarah's story

Sarah wants to learn to play the drums. Sarah has cerebral palsy and she has been doing some research with her mum about drum teachers. They have found a drum tutor in a nearby town who also has cerebral palsy and specialises in tutoring young drummers with disability with techniques he has developed. The tutor adapts his lessons and teaching style to each student. Sarah is excited to learn from a tutor who will understand her movement, abilities and limitations.

Can Sarah include the full cost of one-on-one tutoring in her NDIS plan?

Drum lessons would be considered an everyday expense and not usually funded by the NDIS, because they are expenses that would be incurred regardless of whether or not a person has a disability.

If the cost of lessons for people without disability was less than the cost of the lesson for people with disability, the additional cost to enable the person with disability to participate may be a reasonable and necessary support.

What rules apply?

All supports funded or provided through the NDIS must satisfy both the [Supports for Participants Rules](#) and section 34 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#).

Further information about reasonable and necessary decision making may be found in the [NDIS Operational Guidelines](#).

Trying out arts activities beyond 12 months



My first goal

To build on my new pottery skills and on my new friendships

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To build my independence in the community

Paul's story

Paul has autism and wants to build independence and connections in the community. During his last 12 month plan, Paul tried out a few different art and craft classes to expand his interests, build his skills, make new friends and participate independently in a community activity. He tried life drawing, weaving, oil painting and pottery. He enjoyed the pottery class the most and over the ten-week course he started to become friends with a few people in the class. His new friends will be doing the pottery class next term and Paul would like to enrol as well.

Can Paul include the cost of pottery classes in his new NDIS plan?

Pottery lessons would be considered an everyday expense and not usually funded by the NDIS, because they are expenses that would be incurred regardless of whether or not a person has a disability.

If the cost of lessons for people without disability was less than the cost of the lesson for people with disability, the additional cost to enable the person with disability to participate may be a reasonable and necessary support.

What rules apply?

All supports funded or provided through the NDIS must satisfy both the [Supports for Participants Rules](#) and section 34 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#).

Further information about reasonable and necessary decision making may be found in the [NDIS Operational Guidelines](#).

Dance classes



My first goal

To improve coordination and balance so that I can get around by myself

My longer-term goals and aspirations

To maintain my independence

Ben's story

Ben has Parkinson's disease and takes dance classes to improve his confidence with his coordination and balance. The dance classes are at a local dance studio and are taught by a professional dancer. The teacher is not an occupational therapist or dance/movement therapist.

Can Ben include the cost of the dance classes in his NDIS plan?

Dance lessons would be considered an everyday expense and not usually funded by the NDIS, because they are expenses that would be incurred regardless of whether or not a person has a disability.

If the cost of lessons for people without disability was less than the cost of the lesson for people with disability, the additional cost to enable the person with disability to participate may be a reasonable and necessary support.

Targeted capacity building supports such as occupational therapy or physiotherapy may be funded by the NDIS to help Ben reach his goal, and would be delivered by allied health professionals who are able to appropriately and safely support Ben to improve his functional capacity. If Ben chose to pursue dancing as a recreational activity it may be appropriate for an occupational therapist or a physiotherapist to provide him with advice about how to continue this activity safely and sustainably, with consideration of any functional limitations he experiences as a result of his disability.

What rules apply?

All supports funded or provided through the NDIS must satisfy both the [Supports for Participants Rules](#) and section 34 of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#).

Further information about reasonable and necessary decision making may be found in the [NDIS Operational Guidelines](#).