

Core – Consumables and Low-cost Assistive Technology

Consumables is a support category under Core and is available to assist participants with purchasing **everyday use items** (for example; continence and home enteral nutrition products) or low-cost assistive technology (AT) products.

There is considerable confusion what is funded, what isn't funded, and what is considered reasonable and necessary for an individual participant. All decisions should be guided by the [NDIS Act](#) and the associated NDIS rules, which state that a funded support must represent "**value for money**". This means that the costs of the support are reasonable, relative to both the benefits achieved and the cost of alternative support.

What is Low-cost AT?

Low-cost AT are basic (Level 1) and standard (Level 2) AT products that cost less than \$1500, or less than \$750 for electronic devices needed to maintain existing services. Plan-managed or self-managed participants can purchase these items from any provider. Participants often have funding included in their Core Consumables budget to enable them to purchase low-cost AT.

Click [here](#) for more information about Level 1 and Level 2 AT, including examples of each.

Low-cost AT is claimed using one of the below 6 classifications:

- Low Cost AT - Communication Or Cognitive Support
- Low Cost AT - Hearing Related AT
- Low Cost AT - Personal Care And Safety
- Low Cost AT - Personal Mobility
- Low Cost AT - Prosthetics And Orthotics
- Low Cost AT - Vision Related AT
- Low Cost AT - Support Capacity Building

What if I don't have a Consumables budget in my NDIS Plan?

Core is **flexible**, which means you can transfer funds from other Core support categories into a Consumables budget. It is important to note that the NDIA will not increase plan values to accommodate the purchase of a product under this policy. For participants who only have funding in their Capacity Building budget, the 'Low-Cost AT – Support Capacity Building' line item can be used to purchase low-cost AT.

Participants can purchase low-cost AT using one of the above classifications if:

- It is a reasonable, necessary, and disability-related product to facilitate independence, community engagement and/or skill development.
- It will maintain or improve the delivery of funded NDIS supports like a program or therapy.
 - The provider of supports must confirm in writing that the device is necessary to continue supports and services.
- It is the lowest specification that will maintain funded supports.
- They do not already have the item, or access to another suitable item.
- The item has not been funded by another organisation.
- The item or circumstances are not specifically excluded.

Participants cannot purchase low-cost AT using one of the above classifications if:

- The item does not relate to the participant's disability.
- It is an item with extra specifications above the basic model.
- The participant has purchased multiple of the same devices.
- It is an ordinary living cost (such as soap, internet).

Replacements for loss or damage of these items follow the [AT replacement policy](#). Replacement of items would generally only apply where the existing device is **no longer suitable** to meet the participant's needs at that time. It does not include upgrade because a new model or version is released.