



# Prioritisation of Funding

## Fact sheet

### Why does funding need to be prioritised?

During the phasing in of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) across the State, a difference will remain between demand for reasonable and necessary supports and available funding to meet the costs of those supports. Prioritisation of funding will be required outside NDIS areas to ensure those people with the greatest need are adequately supported. Until the NDIS is fully implemented, this prioritisation will occur through local decision-making. This reflects the principle that decisions are best made close to the person they affect.

Funding allocation will balance the needs of the person with disability and their family or carer in relation to the needs of others seeking support. As a result, some circumstances and plan goals and strategies have been prioritised.

### What circumstances are prioritised for funding?

When considering an individual's need for support, the following circumstances will be prioritised:

- a) The need for the support is urgent and requires an immediate response, e.g. the person is experiencing abuse or neglect
- b) The need for support arises from a change resulting in the person having no disability related supports, which may result in a further reduction of functioning or wellbeing
- c) For a child aged 0-6 years, early intervention supports are required:
  - at a time approaching a key milestone
  - to prevent deterioration or improve functionality
- d) The provision of early intervention supports for a person soon after the disability is acquired or diagnosed is likely to benefit the person by reducing his or her future need for disability supports
- e) The need can be met in the short term and may prevent additional resources being required if needs are unmet for a longer period
- f) Multiple and complex need or disadvantage exists within the personal, social and/or community context of the person with disability and impacts or is likely to impact on their wellbeing

### What goals and strategies within a plan are prioritised?

Once the person's need for support has been prioritised, the priority for funding goals and strategies in a plan will be based on:

- a) the strategies that the person with disability and, if appropriate, their family or carer, identifies as best able to meet the priority need





- b) the strategies that the person with disability and, if appropriate, their family or carer, identifies as most important in addressing the priority need and is most urgent
- c) the readiness of the requested strategies to be implemented
- d) whether the supports have been effective in achieving plan goals or have a high likelihood of achieving a positive impact for the person in the immediate future.

## How is prioritisation determined?

The prioritisation of funding of reasonable and necessary strategies and supports within a plan will be considered by Local Coordinators, in consultation with the person with disability and their supporters, as part of the planning process. This can occur when a person develops a plan for the first time and where a person with an existing plan has changed needs requiring additional funding.

The Planning and Assessment Tool is used to assist with determining and assessing a person's support context for comparison purposes.

The person's individual needs and the availability of funds will determine the supports which are funded. This may mean that not all strategies proposed by the person will receive funding and supports may not be of the same nature, quantity or funding amount as was the case in the person's previous arrangements.

## What if I am unhappy with the decision?

A person or their representative can raise concerns and complaints through the Department of Communities (Disability Services) complaint resolution process about how prioritisation decisions have been made, but this does not extend to decisions themselves.

## Further Information

To find out more about Prioritisation of Funding, please visit our website or contact your Local Coordination Office.

- **Web:** [www.disability.wa.gov.au](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au) > Individuals > Services, Supports and Eligibility > Funding
- **Email:** [dsc@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:dsc@communities.wa.gov.au)
- **Call:** 9426 9200 or 1800 998 214 (Freecall)
- **TTY:** 9426 9315