

Disability Services Commission

Self-Management of Funded Supports – Policy and Pricing Fact Sheet

What is self-management?

Self-management refers to the management of funded supports in a plan by either a person with disability or a representative acting on their behalf.

For many years, the Disability Services Commission (the Commission) has enabled eligible people to self-manage funded disability supports. Recently, the Commission worked with a range of stakeholders to develop a detailed policy on self-management. Western Australia's Individualised Services and People With disabilities WA facilitated public consultation about self-management, on behalf of the Commission. The feedback from the consultation helped to shape the new policy, and led to the adoption of a single Support Clusters and Price Framework for service providers and self-managers.

The policy and pricing framework will take effect from 1 July 2017. The policy and pricing will apply to all new plans, and will be applied to existing plans at plan review.

What are the key changes for self-management?

Pricing – self-managed supports are funded in line with the Support Clusters and Price Framework for each geographical area. The price paid for self-managed supports will cover all the costs associated with that support, including direct costs such as wages, indirect costs such as insurance, and ancillary costs such as book-keeping if required.

Checklist – this assists the person and their Local Coordinator in their discussion of the tasks and responsibilities of self-management. The Checklist is required on a one-off basis at the development of the person's new plan after 1 July 2017. Other situations when a Checklist must be completed are outlined in the policy.

Governance – the policy explains the requirements for self-management, including the use of a dedicated bank account for self-managed funds where funds are paid in advance. The 'Acceptance of Grant Funds Agreement' contract document has been updated, and will be available in two formats (person and representative).

How will pricing for self-management work?

The Support Clusters and Price Framework sets out the supports and services that may be funded in a person's individual plan.

Where a support clusters has a pricing band, self-managed supports will be funded at the lowest end of the band. This reflects that self-managers generally have lower operational costs than organisations. Where a person considers the lowest pricing is insufficient to meet their support needs, he or she will need to provide a rationale for the higher price, with supporting evidence. The person and the Local Coordinator will discuss and agree on a price, which will be subject to approval in accordance with the delegation framework for funding approvals.

Where a support cluster has a ceiling price, the person and the Local Coordinator will discuss and agree on a price at or under the ceiling price. Where the support cluster price is "as negotiated", the person and Local Coordinator will discuss and agree on a price. The agreed price will be subject to approval in accordance with the delegation framework for funding approvals.

If a self-manager chooses to engage a provider to deliver a self-managed support, that support will be funded at the provider's rates, provided these rates do not exceed the prices in the Support Clusters and Price Framework.

Following the approval of funding, the self-manager is responsible for paying the costs of supports and services provided under self-management.

What if I am unhappy with a self-management decision?

A person or their representative can raise concerns and complaints through the Commission's complaint resolution process about decisions on self-management. In areas under the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Western Australia (WA NDIS), decisions on requests to self-manage funded supports can be reviewed under the WA NDIS reviews and appeals process.

Further information

If you would like to find out more about self-management please visit our website or contact your Local Coordinator.

- **Visit:** www.disability.wa.gov.au
- **Email:** dsc@dsc.wa.gov.au
- **Call:** 9426 9200 or 1800 998 214 (Freecall)
- **TTY:** 9426 9315