

GETTING PLAN MANAGEMENT IN YOUR NDIS PLAN: EIGHT MISCONCEPTIONS

Over the years, we've heard many misconceptions about getting Plan Management in your NDIS plan. In this article we tackle eight common misconceptions and set them all straight!

1. You have to be "eligible"

False – every NDIS participant **has the right** to have it included in their NDIS plan. This is covered by the NDIS Act, article s.43(2), which states that the "NDIA must give effect to a participant's plan management request".

2. You have to pay for Plan Management

False – it **doesn't cost you anything**. The NDIS covers all the costs when it is included in your NDIS plan under the category 'Improved Life Choices' in your NDIS plan.

3. You have to explain why you need Plan Management in order to get it.

False – **you don't have to explain** why you need it. Simply requesting it is enough to get it included in your plan. It is your right to have it included in your NDIS plan.

If you find it hard to request it, just use our very handy 'Request for Plan Management' form which you can give to your planner or send to the Local Area Coordinator or NDIA representative. <u>Download the form here</u>.

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4. The NDIS may reduce your other funds to give you Plan Management.

False – having it included in your NDIS plan **doesn't affect any of your other NDIS funding**. They won't be cut because you want to have Plan Management. In fact, an additional NDIS funding amount will be added in to cover the service.

5. Your planner, Local Area Coordinator or NDIA representative decides whether or not you can get Plan Management

False – if you ask for it, you should **automatically get it** included in your NDIS plan. The planner, LAC and NDIA must follow the NDIS Act and include it in your plan.

6. If you already have Support Coordination, you can't have Plan Management

False – Support Coordination is a completely different support to Plan Management. It does not include any services for management of your NDIS funds. Your Support Coordinator helps you find and connect with service providers, not with your NDIS administration. You can definitely have Plan Management on top of Support Coordination, just request it.

7. If it's not in your NDIS plan, you can't get Plan Management.

False – **you can always ask for a review of your plan** and requesting Plan Management is a very good reason for a review. As mentioned in the NDIS Act, the NDIA can't refuse this request. Find out more about how to request a review, or feel free to contact our team to discuss your specific situation, we have a lot of experience with supporting people with reviews.

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8. You can only get Plan Management for one year

False - **you can always get Plan Management included again in your new plan,** just ask for it in your review meeting. Although Plan Management is called a 'Capacity Building Support', it doesn't mean that the NDIS aims for everyone to manage their funds themselves one day. The NDIS recognises that the expertise of a Plan Manager could be beneficial for all NDIS participants, regardless of their capacity to manage their funds themselves.

So, getting Plan Management in your NDIS plan should be easy. In fact, it comes down to one thing: asking for it!

- Don't have an NDIS plan yet? Ask for it in your planning meeting and you should get it,
- *Already have an NDIS plan but it is not included?* Ask for a review of your plan for it to be included.

More information

Contact our friendly team on **07 55620466** or <u>leave your details here</u>. We're happy to discuss what we can do for you.

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