

# Funding your communication system



Use this guide to:

- understand what options are available – through NDIS, My Aged Care, and your local MND Association
- learn how to apply for funding, including tips for success
- understand the NDIS funding process and what can be funded
- find out what you can do if you don't have an NDIS plan
- get practical advice to make the funding process easier
- find out where to get more support.

## About this guide

This guide is designed to be used **when speech gets harder**. It is part of the *speech and communication in MND* series of guides and practical tools. This series was developed with MND Queensland, people living with MND, and their carers to help prepare for and adjust to speech changes, get support, and stay connected.

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# Funding options

If you are eligible for NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme), your plan can cover the costs for communication supports.

This can include:

- assessments
- communication tools and technology
- training to use tools and tech.



If you are not eligible for NDIS, other funding may be available. See page 4 of this guide, or talk to your speech pathologist or your local MND Association to find out more.



## Ask for help

Your speech pathologist, occupational therapist or MND Association can explain the options in plain language.

## Tips for success



Start the process early. Funding and approvals can take months.



Keep all your emails, letters and quotes in one folder.



Explain how speech changes affect your everyday life (family, social, medical).

# If you have an NDIS plan

If you have an NDIS plan, you can work with your support coordinator or speech pathologist to apply for funding for your communication system through NDIS. Your occupational therapist may be involved as well.

## Steps for funding your communication system: NDIS

1

### Speech pathology assessment

Work together to find the best options for you.

3

### Assessment report

A report from your speech pathologist explaining:

- suggested device/s
- why you need it
- how it will help.

5

### Submit to NDIS

Your support coordinator or MND advisor helps send the report and quotes.

7

### Delivery and set-up

Your team sets up your device and provides training and support to you and your family or carers.

2

### Trial devices and systems

You may be able to borrow devices through your MND Association or suppliers.

4

### Quotes

Suppliers will provide cost estimates to include with the report.

6

### Approval

Once the NDIS agrees, funding is added to your plan under Assistive Technology.



# If you don't have an NDIS plan

If you cannot access the NDIS, your local MND Association, or your speech pathologist can help you explore options.



## MND Associations

- Each state has an MND Association that runs an equipment loan pool.
- You can loan devices while you wait for funding, or if funding isn't available.
- Loan equipment may be short-term.



## Hospital or community health services

- Some public hospitals provide access to speech pathology clinics and assistive technology programs.
- These may offer short-term loan equipment or support with voice banking.



## My Aged Care

- May fund some communication aids through the Support at Home program or the Commonwealth Home Support Program.
- A GP referral is often the first step.
- You can also apply online yourself.



## Charitable grants and foundations

- Some charities (e.g. local community funds, Lions, Rotary) offer one-off grants for essential devices.
- Your support coordinator or MND advisor can help you apply.

## Support is available

Getting funding or equipment can feel complicated, but you don't have to do it on your own. Your speech pathologist and MND Association can help you find out what's available and choose what will work best for you.

MND Info Line **1800 777 175** Monday to Friday, 9am - 4.30pm

[mndaustralia.org.au/speech](https://mndaustralia.org.au/speech)