

The following information provided below, may be useful in helping you to understand what may be possible and how to go about a better approach or wording for a successful application. The following is not meant to replace information on the NDIS site, and should not be your primary source. Keep checking the NDIS website to see how the information below fits in with the official NDIS wording, as conditions or processes may change frequently.

## **It is important to understand the following about NDIS support/funding:**

- It is to support your child (from 7 years of age) in meeting their life goals, which are limited by their albinism traits.
- Any NDIS funding under ECEI may be applied similarly around goals you have for them.
- It must relate only to the specific disability of albinism (unless they also have another NDIS accepted disability).
- It will only fund services or equipment to meet your child's specific goals.
- It will not fund anything that is available through any other government source (eg medicare, education or travel support).
- It will not provide equipment normally found in most homes, unless they have an albinism specific purpose beyond normal use.
- It will not support anything to do with schooling, including homework (this is to be done by the education system that you use).
- The funding is specific to your child and their goals and will be different to other children with albinism, as functional vision, individual goals and family situation will differ.
- It is mainly about capacity building, giving them life skills so that they will become independent and not require as much support in the future.
- The amount of funding each year may decrease as they obtain skills and equipment.
- When a new challenge is presented (such as transitioning to secondary school) they should be able to gain increased support for a short time in order to meet new goals.

## **Before you apply you will need to:**

- If you have been on the ECEI program with a recognised disability (albinism), you will automatically transition to NDIS. If not, you will need to apply.
- Go to the NDIS website to read about the process of applying, and then once you are accepted, how to develop a plan. There are plain English and other language versions too.
- Check if your child meets the eligibility criteria re low vision and resident status in Australia.
- Obtain a recent ophthalmologist report on all aspects of vision, stating an albinism diagnosis.
- Obtain support from a low vision provider if you are not sure of any aspect of the application.

## **Before going to the first planning meeting:**

- Make a list of the main goals that your child has difficulty achieving because of low vision.
- Note what it is about the low vision that makes reaching those goals difficult or challenging.
- Make a list of services or equipment that can support your child to overcome difficulties in order to meet the goals.

- Recommendations from your ophthalmologist or an assessment from an occupational therapist or orthoptist can support your requests for specific services. (Some NDIS planners have no experience with low vision requirements and you may need to explain this).
- Have an Assistive Technology (AT) assessment, recommending suitable equipment that the child will need at home for general reading and vision (do not mention homework).
- Make sure you have the correct wording to meet the NDIS guidelines in order to have your plan accepted.
- If you are unsure about the above, seek advice from an official low vision provider, or other parents of children with albinism (contact the AFA State Rep or the AFA facebook page).