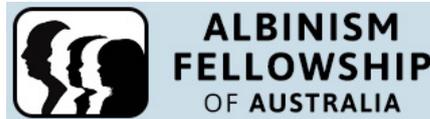


# Ideas to help adults with albinism understand the NDIS



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:**

- You can only access this before you turn 65. It may pay to register and be accepted well before this date as My Aged Care does not seem to offer the same level of support.
- If you are registered with NDIS before you turn 65, you can continue on this program after that birthday.
- It is to support you in meeting your life goals, which are limited by albinism traits.
- It must relate only to the specific disability of albinism (unless you also have another NDIS accepted disability).
- It will only fund services or equipment to meet your specific goals.
- It will not fund anything that is available through any other government source (eg medicare, workplace, 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 used in education (this is to be done by the education system that you use).
- The funding is specific to you and your goals and will be different to others with albinism, as functional vision, individual goals and family situation will differ.
- It is about capacity building, giving you life skills to become more independent and not require as much support in the future eg O&M training, AT training to use your assistive technology.
- The amount of funding each year may decrease as you obtain skills and equipment.

- When a new challenge is presented (such as changing jobs, becoming a parent or preparing to go back to education) you should be able to gain increased support for a short time in order to meet new goals.

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

- 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 you meet 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 you have 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 you 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 will support you at home to meet goals involving general reading and vision (do not mention education related work).
- 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.
- Talk to other members from the albinism community who have had plans accepted to see if any of their ideas may apply to you. (contact the AFA State Rep or go to the AFA facebook page).