

Financial Literacy for NDIS Self-Managers

What is Financial Literacy?

Financial literacy means understanding how to manage your money. It includes knowing how to budget, save, and make smart choices about spending and investing. For NDIS self-managers, being financially literate helps you handle your NDIS funds effectively.

Why is Financial Literacy Important?

Financial literacy is important because it helps you:

- **Make Smart Choices:** Understanding money matters allows you to choose the best services and supports for your needs.
- **Avoid Mistakes:** With good financial knowledge, you can avoid overspending or getting into debt.
- **Plan for the Future:** Knowing how to budget and save can help you reach your goals, like buying equipment or planning for emergencies.
- **Reduce Stress:** When you understand your finances, you feel more in control and less anxious about money.

How Does It Relate to NDIS?

For NDIS self-managers, financial literacy is especially relevant because:

- **Managing Your Budget:** You need to know how to budget your NDIS funding to cover all necessary supports. You can use tools like our [Spending Tracker](#) to help with this.
- **Choosing Providers:** Being financially literate helps you compare service providers and choose the best options for your situation. AFDO's guide on [How to Buy Supports](#) can assist with this process.
- **Understanding Costs:** Knowing how to read quotes and invoices ensures that you get value for your money. Use our [Unregistered Provider Invoice Checklist](#) to help with verifying your invoices.

Steps to Improve Your Financial Skills

Here are some steps you can take to improve your financial literacy:

- **Learn About Budgeting:** Start by tracking your income and expenses. Use simple budgeting tools or apps to help manage your finances. You can find budgeting tips on [MoneySmart](#).
- **Set Financial Goals:** Think about what you want to achieve financially. Set small goals, like saving a certain amount each month.
- **Ask for Help:** If you're unsure about managing your finances, talk to a financial advisor or a support coordinator who understands the NDIS system.
- **Practice Making Choices:** Make small financial decisions regularly to build your confidence. This could be deciding how much to spend on a service or how much to save each month.

Helpful Resources

AFDO offers various resources that can help you with financial literacy and managing your NDIS plan:

- [Creating a Spending Tracker](#): Keep track of your everyday or disability-related expenses.
- [How to Buy Supports](#): Learn the steps for purchasing supports effectively.
- [How to Understand a Bank Statement](#): Know how to read and interpret your bank statements.
- [Keeping Records](#): Tips on maintaining important financial documents.
- [Preparing for an Audit Checklist](#): Be ready for any audits related to your funding.
- [Service Agreements](#): Understand what agreements with service providers should include.
- [Setting Up a Bank Account](#): Guidance on opening a bank account suitable for managing NDIS funds.

- **Unregistered Provider Invoice Checklist:** Ensure invoices from unregistered providers meet your needs.
- **Useful Financial Terms:** Familiarise yourself with key financial terms relevant to managing funds.
- **Useful NDIS Terms:** Understand important terms related to the NDIS.
- **What Does 'Cost Effective' Mean?:** Learn how to assess the value of supports.
- **Where to Start:** Get guidance on beginning your journey as an NDIS self-manager.
- **Your Rights as a Consumer:** Know your rights when purchasing services.
- For more information on these resources, visit [AFDO Resources](#).

Additional Resources

- **Self-Management Guide:** The NDIS provides a comprehensive [Guide to Self-Management](#) that explains how self-management works, including your roles and responsibilities. This guide is essential for understanding how to use your funding effectively.
- **Self-Management Orientation Module:** The NDIA is developing a new Self-Management Orientation Module. This module will cover your rights and responsibilities as a self-manager and provide guidance on tasks like directly employing workers. Stay updated on its release through the [NDIS website](#).
- **Self Manager Hub:** Visit the NDIS [Self Manager Hub](#) for guides and tools tailored for self-managers.
- **My Care Space:** Explore [My Care Space](#) for resources that help people living with disabilities find services and information.
- **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission:** Learn about participant rights and protections at the [NDIS Commission](#)
- **MoneySmart:** For budgeting tips and financial management tools, check out [MoneySmart](#), which offers free resources to help you manage your money effectively.