**TRANSCRIPT**

**Increased flexibility for low cost Assistive Technology (AT) under $1500**

To help make sure participants keep getting their NDIS funded supports and services during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are temporarily broadening the flexible approach for low cost Assistive Technology, also known as AT, items under $1500.

Participants can now use their existing NDIS funding to purchase an AT item if all of the following criteria are met:

* the AT will maintain existing funded NDIS supports like a program or therapy
* the provider of the existing support or service has confirmed in writing the AT is necessary to continue supports and services while maintaining physical distancing
* the AT is the lowest specification that will maintain funded supports
* the participant does not already have the item, another suitable item or access to the item
* the AT has not been funded by another service system (such as education)
* the AT or circumstances are not specifically excluded.

Participants can use their funding flexibly to purchase low cost AT using funding in their core - consumables budget.

Not all participants have funding available in core budgets for consumables so we are working on a system update to make sure this flexibility is available to everyone.

Participants who only have funding in their Capacity Building budget can use a special line item to purchase low cost AT.

Plan managed or self-managed participants can purchase these items from any provider. Agency managed participants can only purchase these items from a registered NDIS provider (this can include a therapy or support coordination provider).

We recommend participants work with their existing providers to discuss the best way to receive services and supports while maintaining physical distance – this might include using available technology, developing programs participants can do at home, borrowing equipment or keeping in touch over the phone.

For more information visit www.ndis.gov.au or phone 1800 800 110.